

Challenger revives Westland memories

Thatcher accuses Heseltine of 'Labour policies'

By ROBIN OAKLEY AND PHILIP WEBSTER

MARGARET Thatcher today warns Conservative MPs that if they elect Michael Heseltine as their leader they will risk pulling the country down with "Labour" policies, destroying all that she has stood for.

As her challenger for the Tory crown intensified his campaign against her style of cabinet government by reviving memories of the Westland affair, Mrs Thatcher launched her most direct assault on the leadership credentials of the man trying to replace her.

In a weekend interview with the editor of *The Times*, Mrs Thatcher said of Mr Heseltine: "If you read Michael Heseltine's book, you'll find it's more akin to some of the Labour party policies: intervention, corporatism, everything that pulled us down. There is a fundamental difference on economics and there's no point in trying to hide it."

Mrs Thatcher hinted that it would be a cruel outcome if her party were to discard her this week after she had given it three election victories. She insisted that she had much more to do: "It's unfinished

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work. And it will be finished!" However, it has emerged that those closest to the prime minister are preparing to advise her to step down and leave the second round to others if she fails to secure the decisive endorsement of her parliamentary party.

Close confidants will tell her that she should not subject herself to the humiliation of possible defeat in a later round after so dominating British politics for the past decade.

With all the indications that tomorrow's vote could be much closer than was believed at the outset and with opinion polls underlining Mr Heseltine's claims to be able to save the next election for the Tories, Conservatives were turning their minds to the manoeuvring that will have to take place if Mrs Thatcher fails to secure a convincing victory in the first round.

John Major, the chancellor, is coming under pressure from a growing number of MPs to be ready to declare his candidacy in a second round if Mrs Thatcher bows out. Douglas Hurd remains the leading contender to be the cabinet's unity candidate in a contest without Mrs Thatcher. However, Mr Major is also being supported by senior backbenchers who believe him to be "sounder" on Europe and who doubt Mr Hurd's economic credentials.

Mrs Thatcher, who arrived in Paris last night, will hear the results by telephone soon after 6.30pm tomorrow. Her ministerial colleagues are anxious she should not make any snap judgment then on her plans for the second round but should return to London for consultations on Wednesday.

Mr Heseltine, who yesterday promised "a new dimension, a new Tory face" and a new partnership with local government, also played the Westland card in an

interview on BBC Television he claimed that he had warned Mrs Thatcher five weeks before his resignation in January 1986 that he would go if she did not allow him to put to the full cabinet his case for a European rescue of the ailing helicopter company. On the day of his walkout she had, he said, read to the cabinet the conclusions of a meeting and of a discussion that did not take place.

"They were already written before the meeting started. Mrs Thatcher was not prepared to allow my case to be put to the cabinet."

In her *Times* interview, Mrs Thatcher gave a different version. She said: "It was the path which he suddenly chose at a cabinet meeting. There was no need for it. The rest of the cabinet were completely united about what we should do ... We all agreed on one course of action, Michael wouldn't."

Government sources last night disputed Mr Heseltine's recollection of events, saying that there were no minutes of a meeting that did not take place. They blamed Mr Heseltine's walkout on his failure to persuade colleagues to accept his policy and on his refusal to accept as other ministers had done that all statements on the Westland issue should be cleared with the cabinet secretary.

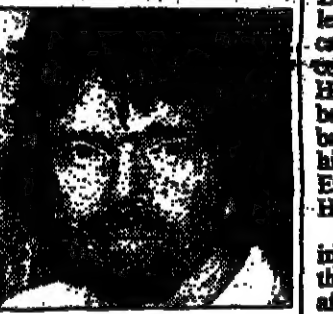
The Heseltine camp was buoyed yesterday by universally favourable opinion polls and by backing from several newspapers. The challenger's supporters were cautiously optimistic of forcing the issue to a second ballot. Some of the more enthusiastic supporters outside his campaign team were talking of having 130 votes in the bag.

Denying claims by the Thatcher camp that they had the votes to see her through on the first ballot, Sir Peter Tapsell, who seconded Mr Heseltine's challenge, reminded MPs that that was what was said by Mr Heath's team before Mrs Thatcher beat him on the first round in 1975.

Mr Heseltine's supporters brushed off suggestions last night that the Tory right would rebel against Mr Heseltine and force him to call an immediate general election. Theresa Gorman, MP for Billericay, said she would

Continued on page 26, col 1

Branson will bid for ITV



Richard Branson's Virgin group has recruited the help of Westinghouse, the American company, to prepare a bid for one of the 16 regional ITV franchises which will be auctioned next year. Mr Branson said the Thames and TVS regions were obvious targets.

Race law move

A proposal that a statutory prohibition on racial discrimination covering courts, the probation and prison services and police, should be included in the Criminal Justice Bill, is being backed by the Bar.

Star role

National Astronomy Week starts today in the absence of an Astronomer Royal. The last incumbent, Sir Francis Graham-Smith, retired in September and the prime minister has not yet nominated a successor.

Frozen asst

The British Government hopes to play a leading role in the drawing up of a new agreement on the protection of Antarctica at a meeting in Chile of the parties to the 1961 Antarctic Treaty.

Kwai mass grave

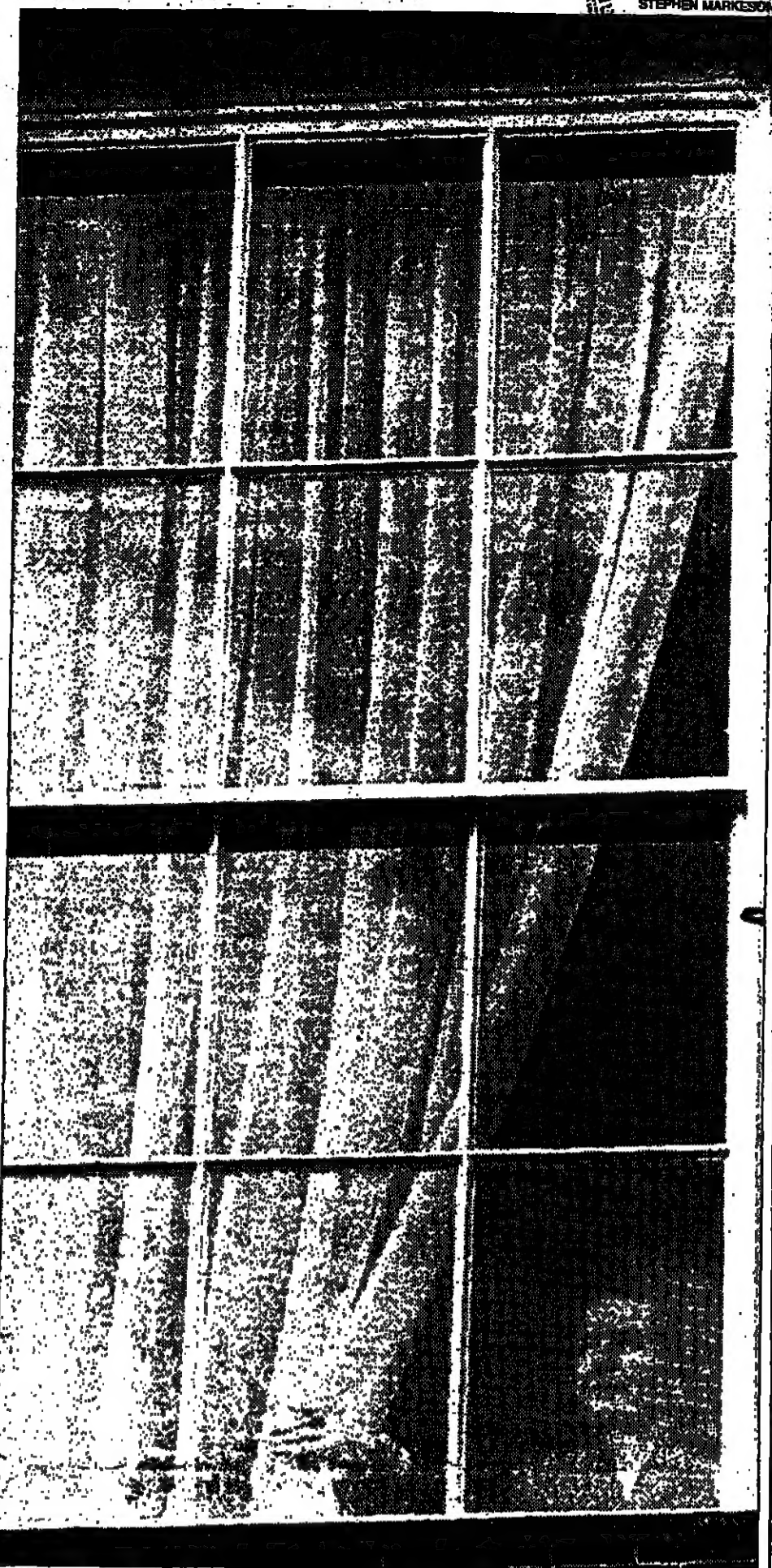
Fifty skeletons found in a mass grave near the Bridge on the River Kwai, 80 miles from Bangkok, are thought to be of Asians found to work on the Burma railway.

Cup hole

Last night's draw for the second round of the FA Cup means that two new clubs are certain to go through to the third round, with the possibility of a tie against the division opposition.

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Thatcher's castle: the prime minister prepares to defend her position in Downing Street

Gorbachev again invites the Pope

FROM PAUL BONFARD IN ROME

PRESIDENT Gorbachev met the Pope yesterday and renewed his invitation to the pontiff to visit the Soviet Union. Afterwards he said he hoped that their next meeting would be on Soviet soil.

His audience with the Pope came less than a year after their historic first meeting. But while in December 1989 Mr Gorbachev arrived in Rome as the star of perestroika, yesterday he came eager to enlist international support to help him cope with growing social and political unrest in the Soviet Union.

During a nine-hour visit here he also met Italian political leaders and signed a package of bilateral treaties.

President Gorbachev later described his meeting with the Pope as "a new and important contact". He added that he was "extremely satisfied with the interest expressed by His Holiness in the processes under way in the Soviet Union".

After signing the bilateral treaties with Italy, Mr Gorbachev described them as a step towards "a common European home, a Europe stretching from the Atlantic to the Urals".

Troubled republics, page 10



The Pope listening to President Gorbachev yesterday

Boy found after 8 weeks

By MICHAEL HORNELL

SIMON Jones, the little boy who vanished from a park after a man offered him an ice-cream, was found alive and well yesterday, eight weeks to the day after his disappearance.

A man aged 25 was being interviewed by detectives last night after a huge manhunt which led them to a bedroom in a hotel for former prisoners and homeless men where Simon, aged four, was kept only half-a-mile from his home in Hamlet, Herts.

Police went there after a tip-off from the manager and reunited Simon with his mother, Sally Jones, aged 32, who said: "This is the happiest day of my life. I've got my son back and I am over the moon to have him here with me."

Police said Simon was found in a happy mood and was in the room on his own. He underwent a medical examination before being reunited with his mother and grandparents, Stanley and Jean Stevens, but it is not yet known whether he was harmed during his ordeal.

It emerged that officers visited the private Victorian hotel in George Street only 10 days after the youngster's disappearance.

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France backs Bush in use of force against Iraq

From MICHAEL EVANS AND MICHAEL BINYON IN PARIS

PRESIDENT Bush last night won the full support of France for military action to remove the Iraqis from Kuwait. Over dinner with President Mitterrand, Mr Bush was given an assurance by the French leader, conveyed earlier by Roland Dumas, his foreign minister, that France would back a United Nations Security Council resolution, authorising the use of force in the Gulf.

The assurance seemed to imply that France, which has 3,500 ground troops in the frontline in Saudi Arabia, would take part in an offensive against the Iraqis with the Americans. There has recently been concern over whether France would take part in an offensive against Iraq.

Although Mr Bush is here to join other world leaders for the signing of a historic arms reduction treaty, his main intention appears to win the support of every European nation for a possible attack on Iraq.

He arrived from Germany for the formal opening of the 34-nation Council on Security and Co-operation in Europe (CSCE). Today he and President Gorbachev will put their signatures to the Conventional Forces in Europe (CFE) treaty, which was described to top negotiators in Vienna by Oleg Grinevsky, the chief Soviet delegate, as "the second breach in the Berlin Wall".

He and the 21 other chief negotiators yesterday initialled the treaty, making massive cuts in the East-West arsenals in Europe, at the Hofburg Palace in Vienna.

President Mitterrand will open the three-day CSCE conference today with full pomp immediately after the signing ceremony. But despite the importance of the event in putting a symbolic end to the Cold War, the threat of war in the Gulf will dominate the conference behind the scenes.

Last night James Baker, the US Secretary of State, held further intensive consultations with Eduard Shevardnadze, the Soviet foreign minister, who arrived with President Gorbachev after their meeting with the Pope and Italian government leaders in Rome.

Mr Baker is eager to obtain the approval of all security council members for a resolution the US wants to present this month, before it hands over chairmanship of the 15-nation UN body to Yemen. Yesterday he expressed optimism about the outcome. "I'm not aware of any countries, going back to the very beginning of this crisis, that have taken the position that the option of force should be ruled out."

● BAGHDAD: President Saddam Hussein said yesterday he would start freeing foreigners held since the invasion of Kuwait from Christmas day. Baghdad warned, however, that the phased releases of the 2,000 Westerners and Japanese held in Iraq and occupied Kuwait since the August 2 invasion could be affected if the "climate of peace was disrupted".

"The last batch will leave Iraqi territory on March 25, 1991, unless something disrupts the climate of peace," the Iraq News Agency said. (Reuters)

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War in Gulf 'over in days'

By OUR FOREIGN STAFF

ANY war against President Saddam Hussein of Iraq could be over within days, according to Lieutenant-General Sir Peter de la Billiere, commander of British forces in Saudi Arabia.

He told Saudi journalists that the forces arrayed against Iraq already enjoyed overwhelming air superiority and would soon have ground superiority along the whole Kuwait-border front. He was optimistic that allied casualties would not be unnecessarily high.

But some Western diplomats believe the morale of the Iraqi troops is higher than claimed by leading American and British officers.

● Assault postponed: American and Saudi marines staged a mock assault on a Saudi beach south of Kuwait yesterday, but strong winds and rough seas forced the postponement of the amphibious-landing leg of the joint training exercise.

Chinook and Sea Knight helicopters ferried the marines to land from US amphibious assault ships about 25 miles offshore while warplanes flew mock assaults. (AFP)

Backing for Major as alternative choice

By PHILIP WEBSTER AND ROBIN OAKLEY

JOHN Major was emerging yesterday as a contender for the second ballot of the Conservative leadership election if Margaret Thatcher decided to stand down.

The claims of the Chancellor of the Exchequer are being pressed by senior Conservative MPs and ministers who believe that if Mrs Thatcher goes the Tories should skip a generation.

Over the weekend, influential Tories suggested that Mr Major could also fulfil the role of the "unity candidate" rather than Douglas Hurd, the foreign secretary. They suggested that a Major-Hurd axis in which the chancellor became prime minister with Mr Hurd his deputy and foreign secretary would be an election-winning combination.

One senior minister said there was an "underground reservoir" of support for Mr Major. A senior MP said: "John Major has technical grasp combined with ease of manner. We are longing for a leader with ease of manner."

It was argued that Mr Major would be more attractive to the right because of his tougher stance on Europe and that Mr Hurd might be at a disadvantage because of his lack of experience in an economic ministry. Mr Major, at 47, would be able to present a fresher, more youthful image to the country. Mr Hurd is 60.

There is understood to be no formal deal between Mr Hurd and Mr Major over their intentions in what they consider to be the highly unlikely event of Mrs Thatcher not coming through on the first ballot. MPs assume that Mr Hurd and Mr Major would not stand against each other.

Cowabunga! Turtles to the Christmas rescue

By GILLIAN BOWDITCH

THE streets of Britain could be in the shambles this Christmas, and only the Turtl and a duck called Edd can rescue us. With the amount of goods sold expected to be 1.5 per cent over than December, the chain stores are faced for their most hectic Christmas since the end of the war.

Last Christmas, there was a last-minute sales slump in the fortnight before December 25 which saved shopkeepers a year, despite good-looking Christmas lights, the outlook is much more sober.

Richard Hym of Verdick, the retail market research group, said: "We think the situation on the high street is worse than most retailers are owing up to. A 1 per cent fall in retail sales volumes in December is very,

very likely and it could be more." On average retailers double their profits during December, over those of most other months.

But for some, such as jewellers, department stores and electrical retailers, poor Christmas trading can turn a bad year into disaster. A spokeswoman for Argos said the group predicted the slowdown in the second half and reacted accordingly. "Our northern stores are the first to react to Christmas and we are still waiting for them to come through. We are finding Teenage Mutant Hero Turtle goods very strong. Turtle costumes at £5.99 are still walking out of the shop. Barbie dolls and Batman are selling well, as is a soft toy called Edd the Duck."

Michael Pickard, chief executive of Sear's, the chain which owns Selfridges, said the Gulf conflict and

political uncertainty are hurting consumer confidence. "It is early to say. We are not expecting any great bonanza and I imagine Christmas will be late again this year. Turtles are selling well as is anything a bit new or gimmicky."

Boots chief executive, Sir James Blyth, said Christmas would be a tough one for retailers but he expects Boots to take its fair share of the money available. Ian Hay Davison, chairman of Storehouse, the BHS chain, said: "Current political and economic uncertainties suggest that consumer confidence will remain subdued and the retail climate intensely difficult for some time ahead."

A spokesman for Marks & Spencer said the whole industry was having a tough time. Sales of homeware and tailored clothing are poor but lingerie, gifts and childrenswear are likely

to be best sellers this Christmas. A few groups are bucking the gloomy trend. Gerald Ratner, chairman of the jewellery chain, Ratner, said sales so far this year are up on last. Ratner has launched a pre-Christmas sale and is spending more on advertising and incentives to sales staff.

Sales are still rising at Body Shop and chairman Gordon Roddick is predicting a strong Christmas with sales in the UK shops currently running at 8 per cent ahead of last year. Stanley Kalms, chairman and chief executive of The Dixon Group is optimistic about Christmas trading which has begun promisingly. "Computer games, Camcorders and televisions are all selling well. Computer games will be the big seller this Christmas."

Leading article, page 15

MORE WOK, LESS PAY.

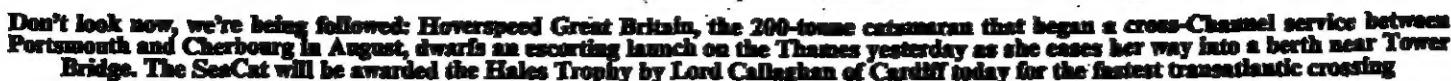
Chinese Wok Set £12.75 from all stores

happy christmas habitat

By FRANCES GIBB, LEGAL AFFAIRS CORRESPONDENT

There is widespread concern that if the Bill's aim to reduce the number of offenders sentenced to custody is to succeed, there must be a more co-ordinated, systematic framework for the issuing of

Penal groups also say the bill would enable courts to pass sentences longer than the normal range, where they consider that necessary to protect the public from serious harm.



By MICHAEL EVANS, DEFENCE CORRESPONDENT

John McFall, MP for Dumfries and a member of the select committee, said he had received information that the cracks had been "ground down" to ensure that the nuclear patrols continued without a break. The Royal

The allegations by Mr McFall will be answered formally by the defence ministry when he raises the matter at the next meeting of the defence committee. A Royal Navy spokesman said yesterday that all nuclear-powered submarines

The Polaris submarine now in refit is HMS Renown but the defence ministry has refused to say whether cracks have been found.

By Our Legal Affairs Correspondent

The last-ditch challenge to the ban is being brought by six journalists and a National Union of Journalists official who argue that it restricts their

The legality of the ban, introduced in October 1988 under section 29 of the Broadcasting Act 1981, has been unsuccessfully contested by the journalists in the High Court and the Court of Appeal. If the journalists fail in their challenge before the law

Recent months have seen an upsurge in anti-semitic literature in Britain. The board was told that several MPs had written to the Attorney-general in support of its plea for prosecutions to be brought against the purveyors of such "hate literature". Several cases referred by the board were being investigated.

A Panamanian-registered ship, with £10 million worth of cannabis on board, was escorted to Oban, Strathclyde, last night after it was intercepted by a Royal Navy vessel. Customs officers assisted by the crew of the HMS Glasgow boarded the MV Sea Ranger V when it entered British waters off the Outer Hebrides. Ten members of the crew were arrested. The cannabis weighed 1.5 tons.

Four men held in connection with alleged dealings in stolen passports and counterfeit American dollars were yesterday still being questioned by detectives in London. The four, including a prison officer, his son and an escaped prisoner, were arrested in Manchester and Gloucestershire on Saturday night after what police called a "major enquiry with international implications".

England has beaten the Yugoslav C team 2½-1½ in the first round of the biennial chess olympics in Novi Sad, Yugoslavia. For their win Speedman beat Cvitan, Nunn beat Cabrilo, Adams drew with Stribovic and Hodgson lost to Kosic. England are second favourites after the Soviet Union, who beat East Germany 3½-½. In the parallel women's olympics, England beat Australia 2-1.

Six people died and two were seriously injured in a head-on collision between two cars on the A23 near Hickstead, West Sussex on Saturday night. The road was closed for two hours as a fireman cut the drivers and passengers out of the cars and investigators searched for clues to the cause of the accident. The two men who survived were taken to Cockfield hospital in Haywards Heath.

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The week ahead

Tomorrow
Tory leadership election is held with the result announced by the evening. Monetary supply figures are announced. Four trade unions, representing 180,000 hospital workers, launch their 1991 pay campaign.

Wednesday
Chris Patten, environment secretary, testifies before Commons environment committee on global warming. Mozart manuscript is expected to fetch £750,000 at Sotheby's.

Thursday
Michael Heseltine launches a campaign at London Zoo to plant oaks. October's balance of payment figures are announced. Topping out ceremony at Albert Memorial in Kensington Gardens. The Queen opens Nehru Gallery of Indian Art at the Victoria and Albert Museum.

Friday
World Chess Championship resumes in Lyons. Building societies monthly figures are announced. BBC's Children in Need appeal.

Saturday
Committee to Stop War in the Gulf demonstrates in London.

Sunday
A de Havilland Mosquito takes to the air in fiftieth anniversary flight over Hatfield, Hertfordshire.

By TIM JONES
EMPLOYMENT
CORRESPONDENT

ARTHUR Scargill suffered another blow to his position as president of the National Union of Mineworkers when his members rejected by 23,181 to 17,654 votes a call for a national overtime ban in support of a demand for an extra £50 a week.

Mr Scargill said that the result was not surprising in view of the "threats and intimidation" by British Coal in the period leading up to the pithead ballot.

However, area leaders in Scotland, South Wales and Derbyshire had canvassed for the overtime ban to be rejected, saying that it would be used as an excuse by the board to close marginal pits. British Coal had said that jobs and orders would be lost if industrial action took place.

NUM members will now have any pay increase imposed on them as a result of negotiations between British Coal and the Union of Democratic Mineworkers. That is because Mr Scargill and his supporters on the union's executive refuse to accept the "majority principle" that the UDM negotiates for all miners in pits where its members are in a majority.

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MPs weigh views from grassroots on party future

By NICHOLAS WATT, CRAIG SETON AND KERRY GILL

CONSERVATIVE MPs are this morning weighing up huge volumes of advice offered from two vital groups — their constituency parties and their constituents.

During a hectic round of weekend social events, most MPs have had more than enough assistance in gauging grassroots opinion on the merits of the two candidates standing in the first ballot.

A Times national survey conducted at the weekend shows that Mrs Thatcher would have little to fear in tomorrow's election if party workers alone were voting. Most of them stressed her track record and determination.

Some MPs, however, were less impressed, occasionally admitting that they were privately intending to abstain or to vote for Mr Heseltine. One London backbencher professed support for the prime minister, but added that he had serious reservations about her. He found Mrs Thatcher's habit of referring to herself as "we" very annoying and complained she had become aloof, and never said hello to him. "Often great decisions are made on trivial things like that," he said.

MIDLANDS

A tide of support appeared to be running for Mrs Thatcher yesterday among party workers and grass roots supporters in Conservative seats in the Midlands. It emerged after MPs' weekend surgeries, party gatherings and straw polls conducted by officials. However, it was not a clean sweep.

In some seats an undercurrent of desire for change was apparent, and, in two constituencies, MPs supporting Mr Heseltine were at odds with local officials. No constituency association among those asked publicly declared that it wanted Mr Heseltine as leader. Officials of 16 out of 19 associations in Conservative seats checked yesterday declared support for Mrs Thatcher. At least three MPs were apparently still undecided how to vote.

One contrary result was Mrs Thatcher's home town of Grantham, Lincolnshire, where a straw poll of party branches was said to show opinion three to one against both Mrs Thatcher and Mr Heseltine and desire for a new leader to emerge from a second ballot, without a preference being expressed.

At Blaby, Leicestershire, the MP, Nigel Lawson, met Ian McAlpine, constituency party chairman, last night to discuss local feeling, which is said to show particular concern about the poll tax. Mr McAlpine said that a vote for Mr Heseltine in the first ballot might shake a "third party out of the bushes".

He added: "The MP has expressed a slight leaning in one direction, but you had better ask him what it is. We are not supporting Mrs Thatcher unless she changes her ways, but nor are we enamoured with Mr Heseltine as a successor."

At Bosworth, Leicestershire, views of party members were said to be 75 per cent for Mrs Thatcher. The MP, David Tredinnick, has told officials he will support her.

NORTH WEST

Mr Heseltine's success as "Minister for Merseyside" after the 1981 Toxteth riots won him a special place in the affections of local Conservatives.

But for most grass-roots Tories that popularity seems to have evaporated. Liverpool councillor John Backhouse said he expected Mrs Thatcher to lead the party into the next election, and said of Mr Heseltine's challenge: "It's hardly unexpected. It is some-

thing the challenger has always wanted to do."

North West area Conservative Trade Unionists leader Daniel Dougherty said: "I used to like Mr Heseltine a lot, but I think what he has done is disgraceful and disloyal. He should think of the damage he is doing."

SCOTLAND

Conservatives in Scotland were divided over the leadership election, though most were in favour of Mrs Thatcher.

Mr Heseltine was described as "the right man at the wrong time" by Struan Stevenson, Conservative prospective parliamentary candidate for Edinburgh South.

"I would have seen Heseltine as the prime minister's natural successor, but perhaps he has lost his patience," Mr Stevenson said. "He should have waited for

we got her out. She has got rid of all the big men and she has been left with a bunch of wimps. We would do better under Michael Heseltine."

The Welsh Conservative Candidates Group, which conducted a poll among 4,576 party members, found that 69.5 per cent supported Mrs Thatcher and only 30.4 per cent supported Michael Heseltine.

EAST ANGLIA

Some MPs will be listening to the arguments until the end. Robin Baldry, party organiser in Ipswich where Michael Irvine has a slender majority of 874, said after a constituency party meeting: "There was a great deal of argument on both sides but nobody came out on top. We have left it up to the MP to make up his own mind and I think people will be listening to the arguments until the last minute."

SOUTH WEST

In Chris Patten's constituency of Bath, where the introduction of the Uniform Business Rate has led to a campaign against him, Mrs Thatcher can, surprisingly perhaps, count on across-the-board grassroots support.

Richard Hall, chairman of the Bath Conservative association, said: "There is an extremely strong sense of loyalty towards the prime minister and I think she will win. There are doubts about Mr Heseltine's chances although there is a lot of respect for Douglas Hurd."

Alf Gale, chairman of the Wootton Bassett Conservative association in Avon, strongly supported Mrs Thatcher's stance on Europe. He said: "Margaret has done more for Europe than any other European political leader. Britain has done more to get the European economy going than any other statesman — like Delors, who is basically an attempted but failed prime minister."

But Mary Crane, Conservative county councillor for Yelverton, said: "I certainly think Mr Heseltine could rally the party. It is in a bit of a muddle at the moment and we need to sort ourselves out."

HOME COUNTIES

Tories in the true-blue heartland are also split over the future of the party. Norman Best, a Hampshire county councillor, said he was staunchly behind Margaret Thatcher. "She is the best peace-time prime minister this country has had this century. I am in no doubt that she should win and I hope that our MPs will think likewise."

But he said that Mr Heseltine's plans to change the poll tax may influence MPs' defending marginal seats.

NORTH EAST

Among Conservatives in the North-East, there are mixed feelings over the leadership election.

Ian Gordon, leader of the Conservative group on North Tyneside Council, does not think the chances of re-election of the Tyneside MP, Neville Trotter, would improve with Mr Heseltine as leader. "The opinion polls which suggest otherwise are expressing what I think is a very short-term view," he said.

At York, the vulnerable Tory seat held by Caryl Gregory, John Clout, leader of North Yorkshire County Council, said: "I sincerely hope Mrs Thatcher wins." But Stanley Goodrum, of Heworth Conservatives, said: "I think it might be time for a graceful exit."

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Mates is strongly criticised over his campaign

By DAVID YOUNG

MICHAEL Mates, the Conservative MP for East Hampshire, has been severely criticised by a handful of members within his constituency association for becoming Michael Heseltine's campaign manager.

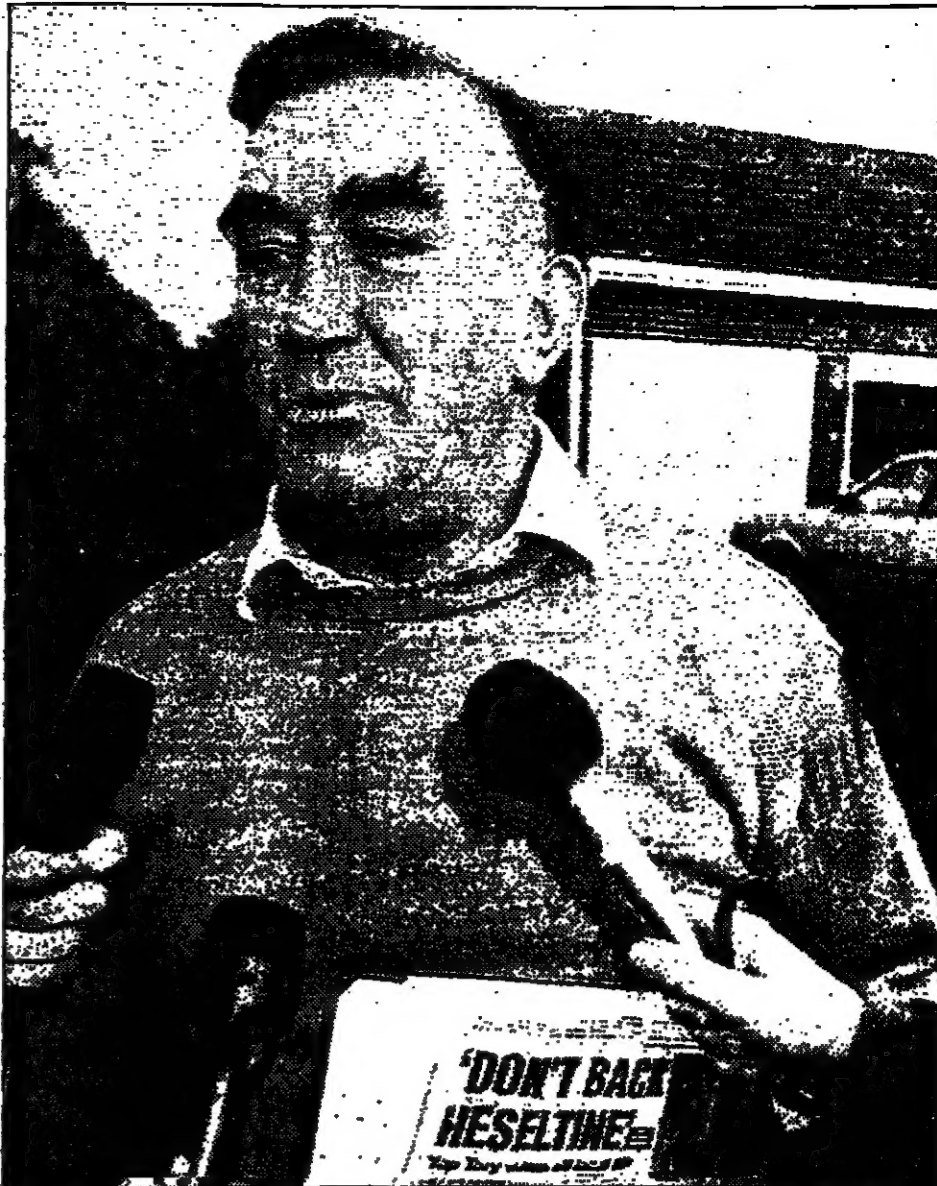
He is the latest pro-Heseltine MP to face such criticism for declaring opposition to Margaret Thatcher, a development that has led to suggestions that Conservative Central Office is pressuring officers of local associations to support the prime minister.

The 25 chairman of the local area Conservative groups within the East Hampshire constituency association met their MP yesterday at the home of David Wilson, the constituency treasurer.

Mr Mates's high-profile role in support of Mr Heseltine was the only item on the agenda and drew strong criticism. After the two-hour meeting Mr Mates said that the prospect of his de-selection had not been discussed.

He said: "I cannot tell you what went on because it was the decision of everyone that it should be private. It was a good-natured meeting of good-natured people at which there was an expression of views. After it I still support Michael Heseltine. There was no mention of de-selection at all."

Michael Turner-Bridges, the association's chairman, who had earlier criticised Mr Heseltine's challenge as divi-



No turning back: Michael Mates reaffirms his support for Mr Heseltine yesterday

sive, said: "The meeting was nothing to do with personalities so de-selection was not discussed. I urged Michael Mates to try to prevent a leadership challenge because I felt it would split the party, but that was before Sir Geoffrey Howe's speech, which made it obvious that there would be a challenge. I admire Michael Mates for what he is doing. It takes a great deal of courage to

express his views in this way."

Sir Neil Macfarlane, one of Mr Heseltine's two sponsors, has been criticised by voters in his Sutton and Cheam constituency. The matter has yet to be raised by constituency officers, but the local party office has been inundated with calls from supporters of Mrs Thatcher. Cyril Townsend, MP for Bexleyheath, has been

Thatcher returns to idea of vote on currency

By ROBIN OAKLEY
POLITICAL EDITOR

MARGARET Thatcher is warming to the idea of a national referendum on whether Britain should accept the imposition of a single European currency.

Twice in parliamentary answers recently and again in weekend interviews she has suggested that the replacement for a national currency "will be a matter for both parliament and people". The matter, however, has not been discussed in cabinet.

When she first told MPs, reporting on the Rome summit, that it would be for the people to make the choice on a single currency, Downing Street was reluctant to endorse that as a hint of a referendum.

Since then, Mrs Thatcher has become more explicit. She told the Sunday Telegraph this weekend: "I would not rule out a referendum. My views on referendums are really quite simple. I think you should only hold them on constitutional issues."

Mrs Thatcher told MPs on October 30 that the pound was "the greatest expression of sovereignty". She and some ministers have argued that there cannot be a single currency for long without moving to a single government.

To Mrs Thatcher the single currency is a constitutional question. Clearly, she is moving to a position of declaring that any attempt to impose a single currency would amount to a breach of the conditions on which Britain was led to accept EC membership and that the matter is, therefore, one for public consultation.



A conductor of passion and compassion.

Many musicians consider Maestro Lorin Maazel to be the finest orchestral conductor since Toscanini. The comparison is significant, both musically and historically. For it was Toscanini who, in 1941, invited the 11-year-old Lorin to conduct the legendary NBC Symphony.

Today Lorin Maazel enjoys the admiration and affection of music-lovers the world over. Blessed with absolute pitch and an awesome memory, he has mastered virtually the entire classical symphony repertoire. He was the very first American to conduct Wagner at Bayreuth and Mozart at Salzburg. Since then he has conducted some

4,000 concerts around the globe and recorded 275 titles. His dedication to broadening the appeal of classical music through television has endeared him to a vast new audience of music fans.

With it all, Maazel retains a boyish sense of humour. He has written, for example, an award-winning comedy film, *A Week in The Life of a Conductor*, a parody of popular misconceptions.

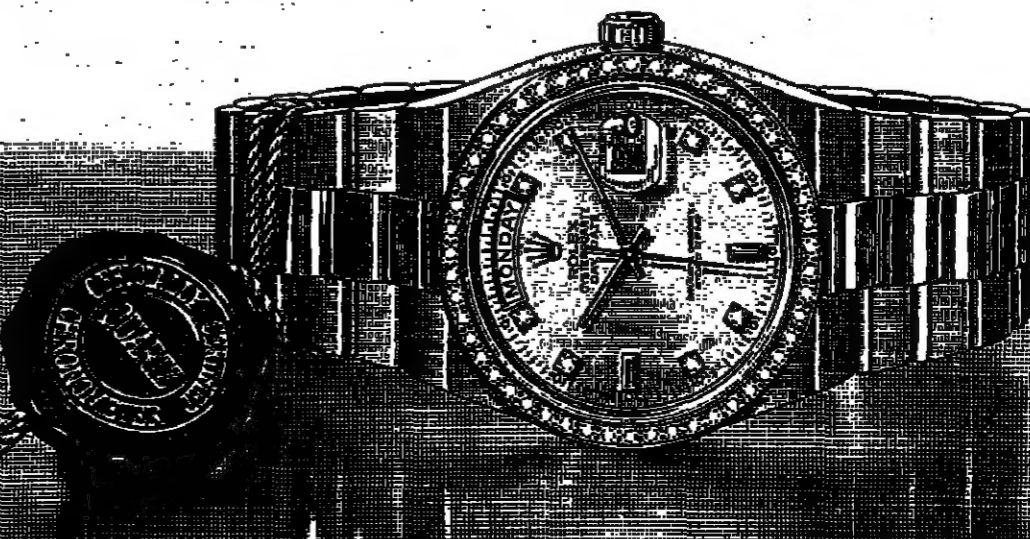
But the man who refuses to be stuffy about his profession is most serious about his music. "There is no music without Life, no Life without passion, no passion without compassion," he says. "A performance must be like Life itself."

Maazel realises his passionate beliefs in compassionate actions. Thus, most recently, his globally-televised CLASSIC-AID concert raised millions of dollars for the hungry.

Perhaps unwittingly, Maestro Maazel paid Rolex the greatest possible compliment when he stated, quite simply, "I have always worn a Rolex". For this is a man who has known since boyhood exactly what he wanted. His career has justified that early decision brilliantly.

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When marginal interests may put an MP's future at risk

FOR any holder of a Conservative marginal seat, making the wrong decision on Tuesday could mean continuing the diet rich in rhetoric of the average MP, or returning to one which involves a certain amount of humble pie under the gaze of constituency chairmen on the reselection trail.

Humphrey Malins, who holds the Tory marginal seat of Croydon North West, is among those who face that choice, although his weekend diet included chocolate cake at his constituency's Christmas bazaar as he consulted on how to vote on Tuesday.

He has decided to back Mrs Thatcher after taking soundings from the ward chairmen and from talking to people in and from the street.

"The local party has the street four to one in her favour split four to one in her favour and I've met 200 people who support Mrs Thatcher," he said. Croydon North West was

snatched from the Conservatives by Bill Pitt, the Alliance candidate in the 1981 by-election, so Mr Malins knows how vulnerable the seat is.

He was told by one constituent that Michael Heseltine would provide the best chances of retaining the seat, his adviser taking the view that if Mr Heseltine was that if Mr Heseltine was

capable of making a lot of money, then he should be able to do the same for the country.

To other members of the constituency association, however, Mr Heseltine lacked judgement. Tony Whiting, chairman of the Epsall ward, said: "He's not very steady. He got upset on the dubious matter of Europe and you just can't afford to have a leader who gets upset."

Stephen Stewart, president of the local party, said that he would be said to see the prime minister go. "She is a lady who

sticks to her guns and looks after this country's best interests because we don't want to be ruled from Europe."

Mr Malins said that there would be a backlash if Mrs Thatcher was forced out on the first ballot and by Friday there would be strong calls for her return. The local association was divided, however, on the advice it should give Mr Malins for a second ballot.

Most of the Thatcher camp believed Norman Tebbit should take over if the prime minister had to step down. He had qualities of doggedness and was abrasive in a more positive way than Mrs Thatcher, Mr Stewart said.

Mr Malins was left, therefore, with the clear impression that he should vote for Mrs Thatcher, even though he could find himself preparing next year to fight for his seat with his party behind in the opinion polls.

Hull backs troubled government policy to renovate housing

By DOUGLAS BROOM, LOCAL GOVERNMENT CORRESPONDENT

MINISTERS have agreed to help a Labour council to buy back its municipal housing as part of a package to salvage the government's controversial policy of creating action trusts to renovate public housing.

Hull city council has become the first local authority in Britain to agree to promote a housing action trust to renovate its own housing stock. All previous attempts by the government to set up similar trusts have failed.

The council will hand over 2,000 pre-war council houses to a government-appointed trust, which will receive £50 million from the environment department to renovate them.

What makes the deal unique is the government's decision to give the council capital allocations, a mixture of grant and permission to borrow, so that it can buy back individual houses after renovation. A housing action trust can be set up only if the majority of the tenants vote for the scheme.

The government has insisted until now that councils will not be allowed to regain control of homes renovated by action trusts. This has been a big stumbling block and led to intense opposition from Labour councils, so that plans to set up trusts in Sunderland and Southwark, south London, were defeated.

The environment department has decided that once work is complete tenants in Hull will be allowed to opt back into local council control. They will also be offered the chance to opt for a private landlord, to set up a tenants' association to manage all or part of the estate or to buy their renovated homes.

Up to £20,000 will be spent on each house if tenants vote for the action trust plan. Work will include the installation of central heating, double glazing, new toilets, bathrooms and kitchens and the replacement of roofs.

The council has already renovated 1,800 of the 3,800 homes on the north Hull estate, where the trust will be established. One of the houses

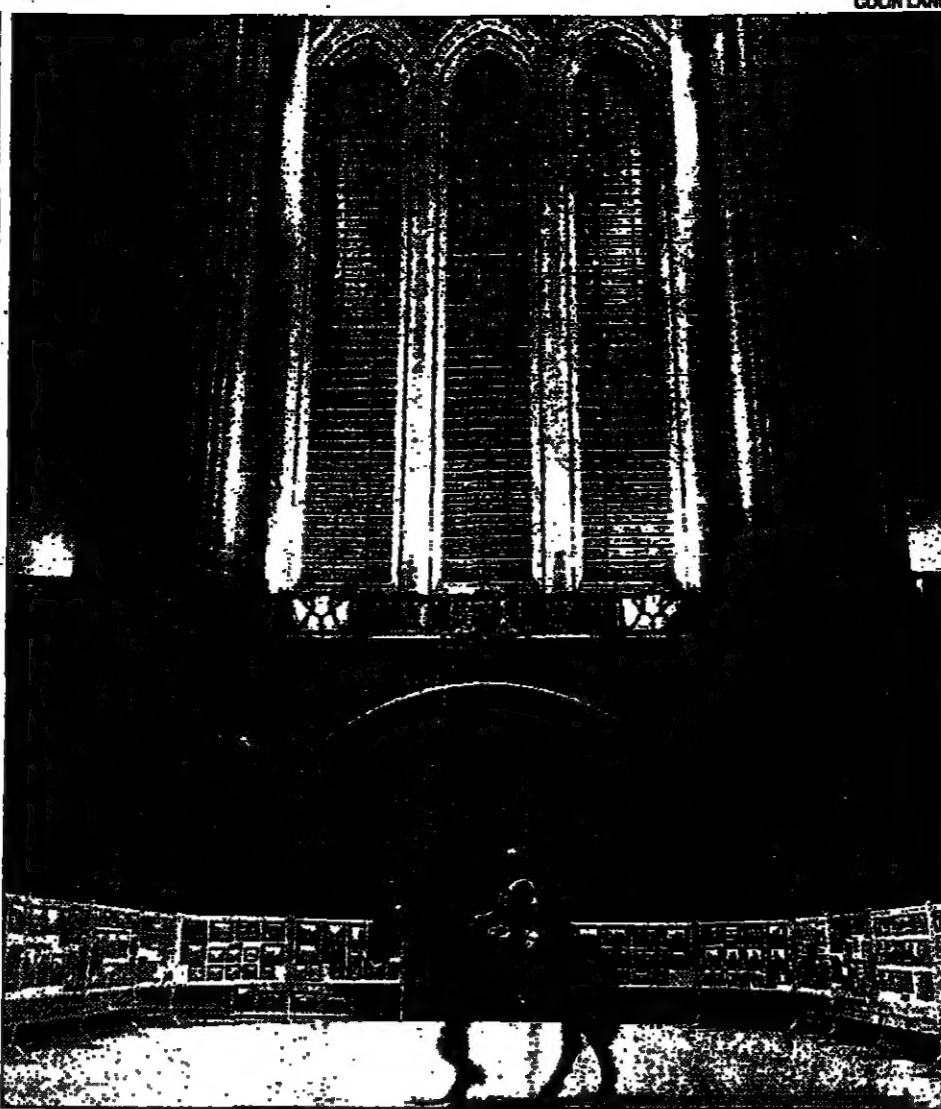
will become a show home to demonstrate the benefits of the project.

John Black, chairman of the council's housing committee, said: "Naturally we would have liked to have carried out improvements to the properties ourselves, but there was little prospect of the money which would be needed being available within the next 20 or 30 years."

"Until now we have been able to improve fewer than 100 properties a year and this number could fall as further budgeting restrictions are imposed by the government."

Pat Doyle, Labour leader of the council, said: "It provides much-needed capital for renovation of the houses, which would not have been available to us from any other source. It will mean millions of pounds being injected into the local economy, which will be good for the local building industry and good for jobs."

The environment department said tenants would decide the final form that the action trust plan would take.



Stanley, a bay gelding, rehearsing with trainer Bill Beasley for his part in T.S. Eliot's *Murder in the Cathedral*, to be staged at Liverpool cathedral this month

Long arm of the insider dealing investigators

A prosecution that arose from a chat after church has thrown light on the increased powers of the Stock Exchange team working to stamp out insider dealing, Ray Clancy writes

IT STARTED with a seemingly innocent conversation after church and ended with the International Stock Exchange's first prosecution under new powers that became effective in February. The conviction of two brothers at Taunton magistrates' court for insider dealing heralded a new era whereby clear-cut cases can be dealt with swiftly and effectively without the appointment of special inspectors.

John Lukins, a lay preacher in Somerset and sports editor of the *Western Gazette*, was leaving Milborne Port Christian Fellowship Church last July when a director of the leather firm Pittard Garmar told him of an impending profits fall in the company, in which Mr Lukins held shares.

Mr Lukins told his brother, Peter, the holder of 5,000 shares, that he was going to sell his 3,000 shares. As a result, they both sold at 108p the day before the shares fell to 77p. That transaction showed up as a blip on Stock Exchange

sophisticated deal. The IDG admits that more organised individuals working on a nod, a wink and a well-timed lunch can pass information to each other that is beyond detection by the surveillance system.

Nevertheless, the IDG believes that the system is very effective despite the low number of convictions. "We are not 100 per cent concerned with getting people to court," Mike Feltham, head of the IDG, said. "We act as a deterrent. Let's face it. If you had two burly blokes knocking on your door and asking complicated questions, you would be put off. We are constantly monitoring the markets, identifying those people involved and keeping an eye on them."

Mr Feltham's team is split into two: those monitoring and those who undertake the investigation and interviewing of suspects. Many of the latter are former policemen or have had investigative jobs. Those monitoring usually have a City background and know the sophisticated ways of insider dealers.

Insider dealing became a crime in Britain in 1980 and the IDG has built up an impressive database of every transaction since Big Bang in October 1986. Its Intelligence Database logs the results and background of every investigation. In an office on the 14th floor of the Stock Exchange tower, with panoramic views over the City, announcements of takeovers, issues and mergers are scrutinised, and investigators watch for unusual timings, unusual share price movements and unusual volumes of trading.

Between 600 and 900 deals are investigated every month, and, after vetting, about 50 merit further investigation. Only a few turn into cases that are considered for prosecution. In the second quarter of this year, 39, or 1.7 per cent, of 2,247 initial enquiries warranted full investigation.

Most of the investigative work is done by the IDG, with complex cases being referred to the Department of Trade and Industry, which can appoint special inspectors with greater powers to gather evidence. The Lukins case was the first brought by the Stock Exchange without the use of inspectors, a process no longer necessary in simpler cases since February.

Statistics indicate that it is ordinary people rather than company directors and financiers who get involved in insider dealing. Of investigations by the IDG in April and June, 56 per cent involved members of the public, 13 per cent company directors, 11 per cent company employees and the rest people in the financial services industry.



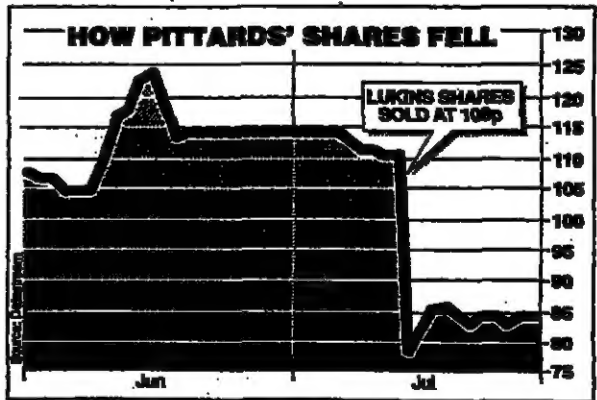
Feltham: "We act as a deterrent"

monitoring equipment, and was picked up by the Insider Dealing Group (IDG), a team of 17 on the lookout for illegal transactions.

A few days after the Lukins brothers sold their shares, Pittard Garmar, one of only two British quoted leather companies, issued a warning that it would make a pre-tax loss of between £1 million and £1.5 million for the six months to June 30. Raw material problems and a collapse in the price of sheepskin pelts were blamed. Analysts had predicted pre-tax profits this year of £5 million.

The broker who sold the brothers' shares also alerted the IDG. The brothers at first denied but eventually admitted using unpublished price-sensitive information. John Lukins was fined £750 with £432 costs after admitting three charges under the Company Securities (Insider Dealing) Act. Peter Lukins, an engineer, was fined £500 with £290 costs after admitting two offences.

The Lukins were described as small fry, caught by a computer noting an un-



Stargazers celebrate without leading light

By STAFF REPORTERS

NATIONAL Astronomy Week, a celebration of British astronomy, starts today without an Astronomer Royal. Like *Hamlet* without the Prince of Denmark, the nation's astronomers will have to enjoy their programme of talks, exhibitions, competitions, star parties and public observing sessions without their titular head.

Sir Francis Graham-Smith, the previous incumbent, retired at the end of September and no replacement has been named. Sir Francis said: "I have placed the office as requested at the disposal of the prime minister and I don't know what she's done with it. Soundings are taken - it's like choosing an Archbishop of Canterbury or a Poet Laureate - but I've no idea on what timescale they intend to work."

Downing Street has confirmed that the post, estab-

lished in 1675, was a royal appointment made on the advice of the prime minister, but could give no guidance as to whether another appointment was imminent.

Sir Francis describes the official duties and financial rewards of the job as "zero and zero". He said: "I have a commission from Her Majesty which says that I am entitled to all the privileges of the office. The only thing is there aren't any."

"I have done a lot of things because of being Astronomer Royal, such as give talks, but they're not in any way duties attached to the office."

Most recently Sir Francis has opened a campaign against light pollution, the wasteful use of electricity for outdoor lighting that ruins the sky for observation. This campaign forms one of the principal themes of National Astronomy Week.

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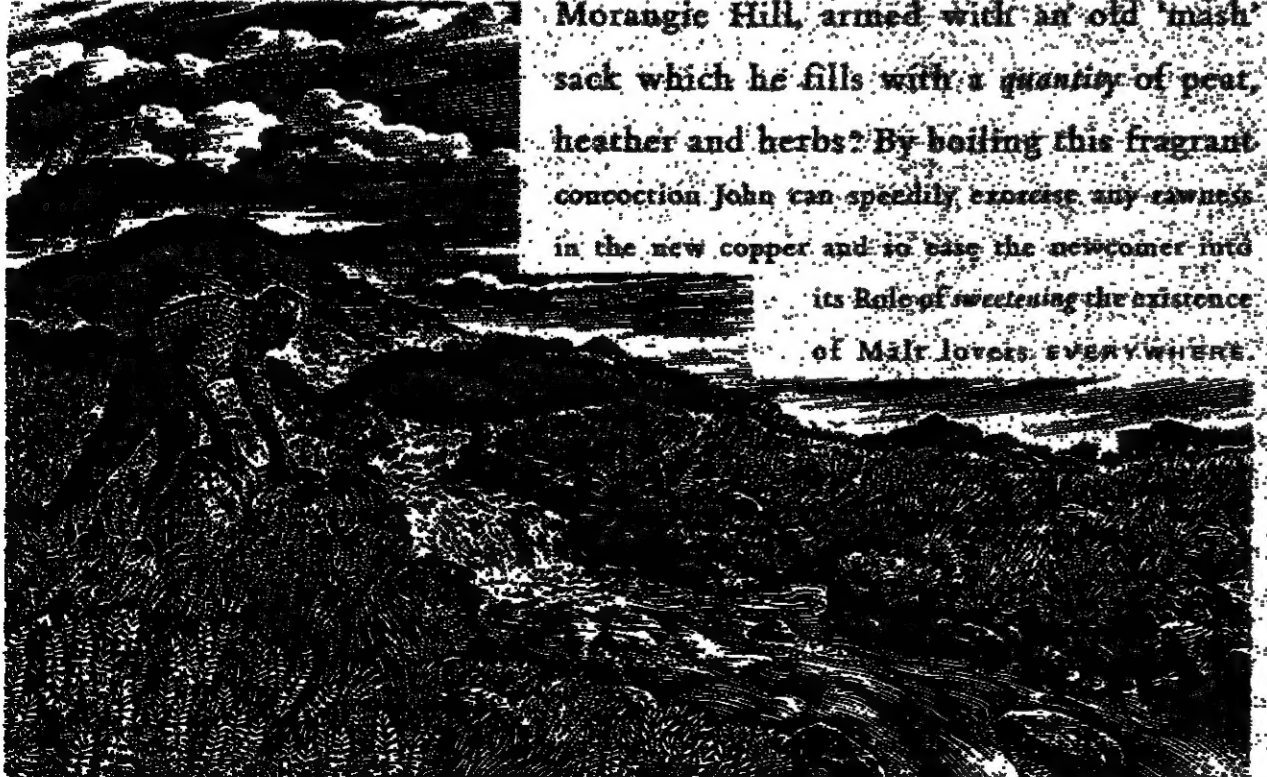
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Morangie Hill, armed with an old 'mash' sack which he fills with a quantity of peat, heather and herbs. By boiling this fragrant concoction John can speedily exorcise any demons in the new copper and so ease the newcomer into its role of sweetening the experience of Malt lovers EVERYWHERE.



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to Lords over broadcasting ban

OUR LEGAL ADVISER COMMENT

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of certain religious or
political speeches of
certain groups of
people is not a breach
of the European
Convention for the
protection of human
rights.

to halt semitic rhetoric

The House of Lords
will be asked to rule
that the ban on the
broadcast of certain
religious or political
speeches of certain
groups of people is
not a breach of the
European Convention
for the protection of
human rights.

Share of caring

The House of Lords
will be asked to rule
that the ban on the
broadcast of certain
religious or political
speeches of certain
groups of people is
not a breach of the
European Convention
for the protection of
human rights.

questioned

The House of Lords
will be asked to rule
that the ban on the
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not a breach of the
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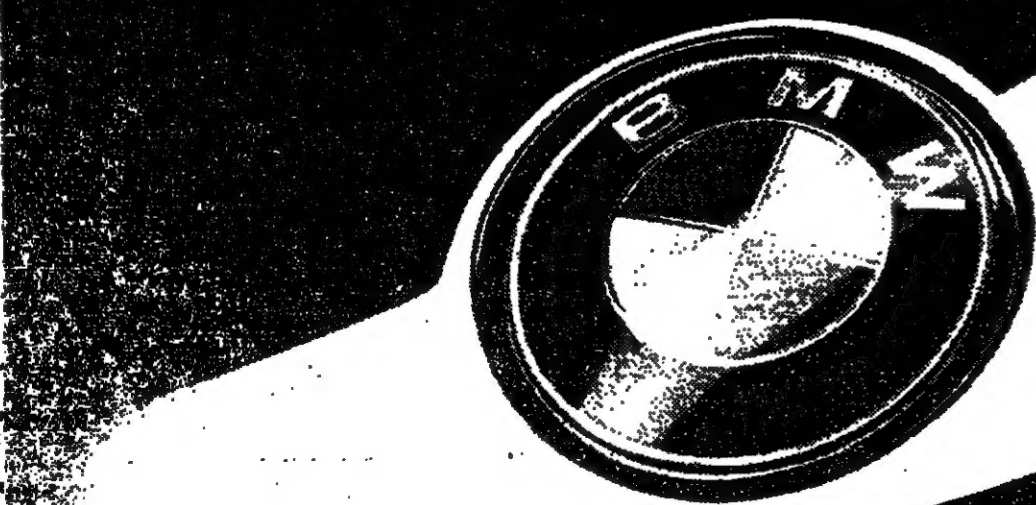
success victory

The House of Lords
will be asked to rule
that the ban on the
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religious or political
speeches of certain
groups of people is
not a breach of the
European Convention
for the protection of
human rights.

rush kills six

The House of Lords
will be asked to rule
that the ban on the
broadcast of certain
religious or political
speeches of certain
groups of people is
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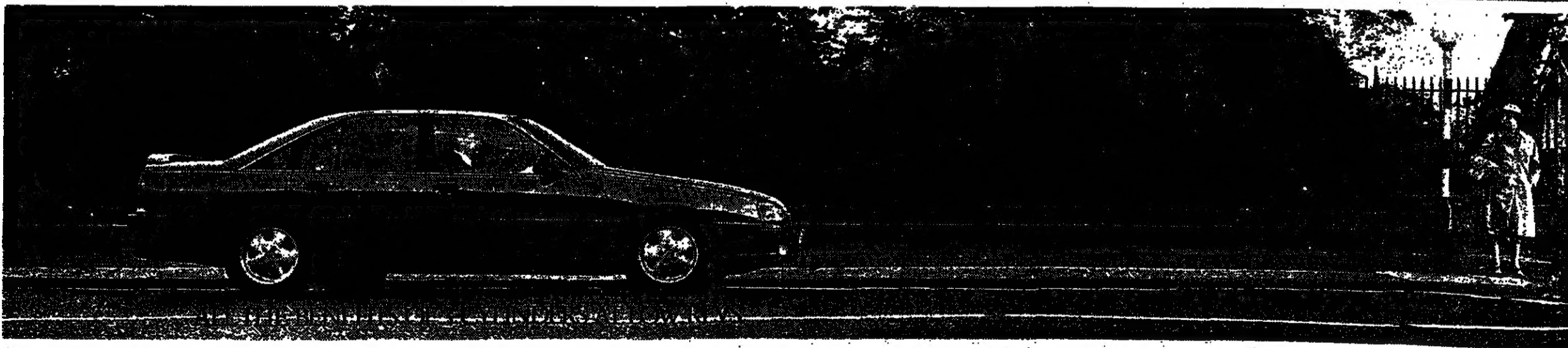
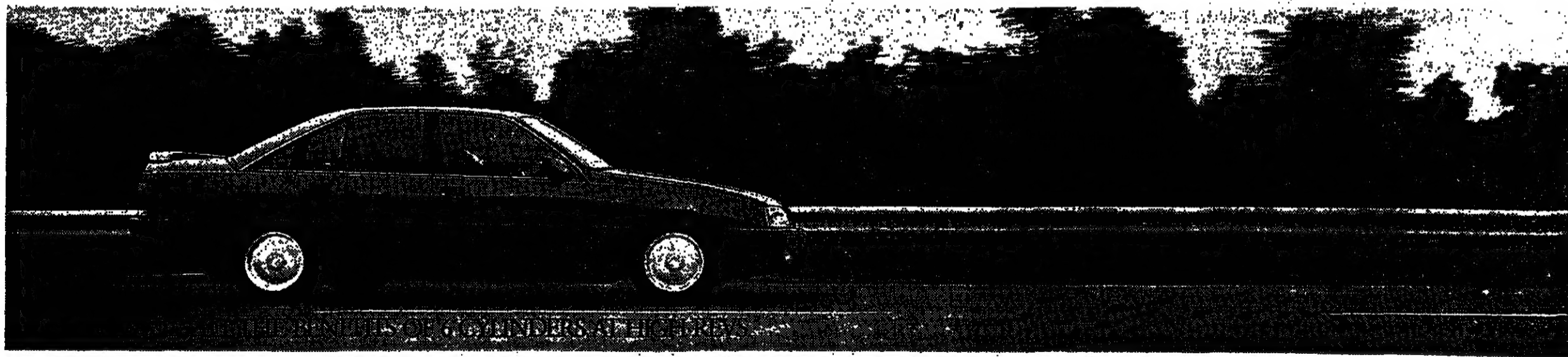
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Ancient harbour town ready to see off march of privatisation

A community of 3,000 on the north Cornish coast is campaigning against big-time developers. Michael Dynes reports on Padstow's attempts to keep the port public and preserve its hard-fought independence

ENTREPRENEURS scouring the coastline for rich pickings thrown up by the government's plans to privatise the trust ports would do well to think twice before trying to swallow up Padstow.

Located in idyllic surroundings on the north coast of Cornwall, Padstow is an ancient harbour town boasting a picturesque mixture of houses, quays, boat slips, beaches, restaurants and shops, which has fended off the worst ravages of developers.

Ambitious property speculators hoping to pick up where others have thought wise not to venture would find themselves facing a small, tightly knit community of 3,000 inhabitants who know how to dispose of intruders.

Having survived the Civil War as a Cromwellian enclave surrounded by a sea of royalist fervour, Padstonians have gone on to avoid levelling the port area, at least temporarily, and prevent construction of the ubiquitous seaside amusement arcade. However, plans to privatise the trust ports, the 100 or so public-sector facilities that handle more than a third of Britain's trade, have become a source of acute anxiety.

Although the measure is voluntary, and aimed primarily at the top 20 trust ports, many locals fear it could become compulsory, rendering the port vulnerable to the proverbial city slicker.

John Hinchliffe, the new harbour master, is no novice when it comes to defending local interests against avaricious capitalists. As a former port director of Freeport, the Bahamas, the sunny retreat for shady people, he has a well developed sense of the potential dangers in store. However, he said: "We don't quite know what's out there. But we can hear the beast rummaging around in the undergrowth."

With a turnover of £400,000 on assets worth £4 million, Padstow is one of the smallest trust ports in Britain. In its heyday earlier this century, Padstow was a thriving West Coast trading and fishing port with a staggering 48 public houses. Changing patterns of trade, the development of containerisation, and Dr Beeching's decision to close the local railway line in 1967 reduced the port to a shadow of its former self. In recent years, however, it has experienced a modest renaissance, and is now about to embark on a new era of balanced



Picture postcard port: Padstow, once a fishing community, now exports crab to France, handles fertilisers and grain and attracts 100,000 holidaymakers

growth in the trade and leisure sectors. Having assiduously cultivated new markets exporting crab and lobster to France, the fishing vessels are slowly returning to the harbour. Small volumes of commercial traffic, principally fertilizer, grain and animal feed, have also been

developed, while the wide range of water sports is attracting more than 100,000 holiday-makers each summer.

Developers hoping to cash in on Padstow's prospects for growth would have to convince a majority of the ten port commissioners, who are responsible for

protecting the port's interests, of the case for privatisation. According to Mr Hinchliffe, any such attempt would effectively "divide the community in half, and create a potentially explosive situation".

Frank Tremayne Stuman, the chairman of the harbour com-

missioners, who traces his local ancestry back to 1520, insists the commissioners have a statutory obligation to regulate navigation and monitor safety. Such responsibilities would be unlikely to be taken seriously by the private sector, he says.

Should the government decide

to make the trust ports legislation coercive, or if developers manage to seduce enough commissioners, Mr Hinchliffe believes Padstow might be forced to make the best of a bad deal. "We would just have to find a nice capitalist, someone who would not eat us whole."

Heads want new exam as link with A-levels

By DAVID TYTLER, EDUCATION EDITOR

A NEW examination at 17 plus should be introduced as a link between GCSEs and A-levels in an attempt to encourage more pupils to stay on at school after 16, Kenneth Clarke, the education secretary, will be told today.

Responding to proposals for the reform of A-levels, the National Association of Headteachers said the recently introduced AS-levels should be revised and the academic rigour of A-levels maintained. Proposals from the School Examinations and Assessment Council to introduce basic skills of understanding and communication into A-levels with an emphasis on course work have been criticised as leading to an inevitable decline in standards.

John MacGregor, in his last speeches as education secretary, said he would not allow any watering down in A-levels, a view echoed by Mr Clarke, who last week said there was nothing wrong with the A-level system as the route to university although he saw scope for reform with other schemes running alongside A-levels.

AS-levels are at A-level standard but contain half the content taught over two years

and are designed to broaden sixth-form education away from the traditional three A-levels. The NAHT said the new examination should be based on the first half of an A-level and sat after one year. Three such examinations could be taken in the first year and three more the next year. Alternatively, more time could be allowed to complete the course if one year was not enough, while A-level candidates could bypass AS-levels and take the full A-level at the end of two years.

David Hart, general secretary of the NAHT, said the new examination would encourage fewer academic students to stay on at school, preparing them for vocational courses or allowing them to go on to less academic degrees.

Stoke Newington Grammar School, Lincolnshire, the first school to be allowed to opt out of local government control, has been given permission to open a boarding house from next September, the first time the government has given permission to a grant-maintained school to change its character.

Letters, page 15
Education, pages 18-20

Hunt called off after wreck found

An air-and-sea search for a 100-ton trawler missing in the North Sea was called off yesterday after a Royal Navy ship found wreckage on the sea-bed 30 miles off the Norfolk coast.

There was no sign of the skipper and five crew, all Belgian, and a coastguard said there was little chance of finding survivors. The *Girl Linda*, from Ostend, was last seen on Thursday, trawling 20 miles off Great Yarmouth.

Stairs theft

Thieves have stolen an antique staircase worth thousands of pounds from the Royal Belfast Academical Institution, using special cutting tools and lowering sections out through a second-floor window.

Inquest reopens

The inquest into the 95 victims of the Hillsborough FA Cup disaster on April 15 last year resumes today. A 50,000-signature petition was given to the Home Office last week calling for criminal charges to be brought.

Driving success

Stuart Woodhead, of Wales, South Yorkshire, who was registered blind after a car crash 13 years ago, has passed his driving test. His eyesight was restored after surgery two years ago.

Going home

Sir Peter Imbert, the Metropolitan Police commissioner, left St Thomas's hospital, south London, at the weekend, 19 days after suffering a heart attack. He intends to resume work in the new year.

Bond winners

National Savings Premium Bonds weekly winners: £100,000, 4% K 35792 (Gloucestershire); £25,000, 4% K 251400 (Cheshire); £10,000, 4% K 251400 (Cheshire).

Ministers urged to drop 'tags'

By QUENTIN COWDRY
HOME AFFAIRS CORRESPONDENT

MINISTERS are being urged by penal reformers, Labour MPs and probation officers to drop any use of "tagging" in the criminal justice system.

Roy Hattersley, the shadow home secretary, will tomorrow echo the fears of a diverse body of opinion when he tells MPs that electronic tagging is a gimmick. Speaking in the debate on the second reading of the criminal justice bill, he will urge ministers to concentrate on more effective ways of cutting the jail population.

Ministers believe that tagging is a useful way of diverting people from jail, both newly convicted offenders and those who are likely to be remanded in custody to await trial. They propose that tagging should be used to enforce curfews.

Opposition MPs, probation officers and bodies such as the National Association for the Care and Resettlement of Offenders have, however, been incensed by the Home Office's decision to retain tagging after what they considered was a humiliating trial failure. The association's briefing paper, published today, says that the Home Office had hoped 150 people would be tagged during the six-month trial; in the event, only 50 were tagged and 28 of them broke their bail terms.

As the experiment cost £700,000, the association says the taxpayer had to pay £14,000 for every defendant successfully tagged.

Ministers say the real problem was that magistrates were over-cautious. David Waddington, the home secretary, believes the fact that an offender is brought back to court after breaking a "tagging order" simply proves that the system has worked, not that it is wrong in principle.



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Gorbachev vision wins over last of Cold War warriors

AMID all the complaints and heckling to which President Gorbachev was subjected last week, there were also compliments from two unexpected quarters. General John Galvin, Nato's supreme commander in Europe and a man widely regarded as an unrepentant Cold War warrior, returned from his first meeting with the Soviet leader to describe him as a man "of vision and courage" and wish him well.

In the Soviet parliament, the new Armenian president, Levon Ter-Petrosian, a man who does not agree with Mr Gorbachev on much, lightened the otherwise black mood by finding a positive side to recent changes in the country. They included, he said, the revival of the republics as political entities and the absence of repression.

General Galvin is the latest in a line of foreign converts to Gorbachevism, following a trail blazed by Margaret Thatcher and Ronald Reagan. But what is the "vision" which has won over so many diehard sceptics? Few would contest Mr Ter-Petrosian's tribute, but the changes he mentioned do not

amount to a vision, and it is the word "vision" to which Mr Gorbachev's foreign guests repeatedly return.

The available shreds of evidence suggest that Mr Gorbachev does have a vision for his country, and that it combines much that Soviet citizens would applaud. He appears to want a "normal" country governed by the rule of law; a country in which moral values are shared by leaders and people; a country in which goods and services are bought and sold in a civilised way and not traded against favours; a country where people did not have to break the law to provide a decent living standard for themselves and their families, and where work was given its due reward. At a structural level, the country would be a federation of equal republics which voluntarily surrendered certain powers to the centre for the common good and greater strength of the whole. Most decisions would be taken locally, or by the republics.

The model for this new country could be almost any Western republic with a federal structure, but the closest anal-

Even political foes and diehard sceptics praise the Soviet president's courage and his spirit in the fight to turn the Soviet Union into a United States of Eurasia, Mary Dejevsky reports

ogy would be the United States. The past two years have seen Mr Gorbachev increasingly lean towards a concept that in its final form could make the Soviet Union a United States of Eurasia. In this, the Soviet leader is reverting to a preoccupation of the early Soviet period with its slogan: "Catch up and overtake the United States", and its building of high-rise blocks and the Moscow Underground. But Mr Gorbachev's vision seems to consist in emulation rather than competition.

Earlier this year, Mr Gorbachev made himself president with a swearing-in ceremony closely modelled on that of an American president. Recently there has been talk of a two-chamber parliament modelled on the US Congress. The powers that would be

delegated to the federal government under the new union treaty are presented as similar to those held by the United States government.

Mr Gorbachev has been host to John Sununu, the White House chief of staff, to learn about running a presidential office, and is on the verge of establishing a national "security council". The new union treaty is said to be a document that will replace the largely fictitious Soviet constitution, and work is believed to be in hand on a Soviet bill of rights. In recent weeks there has been official praise for aspects of American life, from the agriculture system to voting.

Russians frequently complain that Mr Gorbachev does not know where he is taking the country. He has been

compared with a pilot who has taken off without knowing whether there is anywhere to land. But he appears to have a destination, he knows how he would like his country to develop in the long term. The difficulty lies in getting there from here; he has taken off without either flying training or a map.

Mr Gorbachev has recently pleaded with the West to view the present Soviet problems as a crisis of transition, not of collapse. Some senior Western diplomats have sympathy for this view. They argue that disorder is inevitable during so fundamental a transition and that new, firmer, healthier, decentralised structures could emerge. If all that is needed is a strong stomach, Mr Gorbachev is well equipped. One of his chief aides, Georgi Shakhmurov, said last week with some awe that the Soviet leader never felt stress. "He is very self-confident."

Mr Gorbachev may be confident, but he has also been cautious. During his travels this autumn he signed declarations of friendship and security as written guarantees of foreign goodwill.

At home he has tried to ensure that all the changes, social, political and economic, take place with a backing of consensus and are controlled from the centre. He has repeatedly tried to create new structures before allowing the old ones to crumble completely, leaving old and new to battle for survival.

Co-operative ventures were encouraged to develop production of consumer goods and services; joint ventures were created to bring in foreign investment, and elected soviets were boosted to exert local power. Each of these initiatives has failed, been rethought or replaced, and this week the search is on for new political structures capable of controlling a situation that is already out of control.

Some believe that central control must be relinquished before any improvement is possible. Others fear anarchy. After Saturday's session of parliament, Mr Gorbachev has more central power than ever but exerts less overall control. It is, as Mr Gorbachev's new convert, General Galvin, said last week, going to be a "very rocky road".

Troubled republics weigh up benefits of Moscow reforms

FROM MARY DEJEVSKY IN MOSCOW

THE Russian Federation and other constituent republics of the Soviet Union were yesterday considering their response to Mikhail Gorbachev's move to extend his presidential powers and curb their recently acquired sovereignty.

Their deliberations followed the Soviet parliament's tentative approval of a new political structure that would sideline the central government and bring economic policy and law enforcement more directly under the president's control.

The structural changes, and measures to implement them, are to be discussed again next Friday when President Gorbachev returns from Paris. While approving Mr Gorbachev's proposals in principle, a tired and brow-beaten parliament rejected a resolution late on Saturday that would have given the president almost limitless powers to impose order throughout the country.

The fate of the prime minister, Nikolai Ryzhkov, was still unclear. Addressing parliament in the face of unrelenting criticism of his government, Mr Ryzhkov expressed support for administrative changes and complained of a concerted political campaign against him. He is tipped for the new post of vice-president. He made no mention of resignation, but conceded afterwards that the proposed changes could leave him without a job. "The post of prime minister," he was quoted as saying, "may cease to exist."

The new structure abolishes the 18-member presidential council of ministers and advisers, established only eight months ago, and replaces

it with a cabinet of ministers, an executive body, said to include the same key ministers, to oversee implementation of laws.

The Council of the Federation, which currently comprises the president, prime minister and Communist party leaders of all the Soviet Union's republics, is to have an enhanced role in policy-making and implementation, with each republic having the right of veto.

The purpose of this appears to be to give the republics more central power and bring the central and republic authorities closer. The disadvantage, according to some republic representatives, is that they, rather than the centre, could be blamed when laws and decrees were disregarded.

A new control chamber to oversee law and order and combat corruption would be created, directly answerable to the president in an apparent attempt to deflect criticism that the law and order situation is out of control.

The president has also proposed establishing a "security council" to provide him with information and advice. The name in Russian sounds more ominous than its UN equivalent, closer perhaps to a council for national salvation.

Even if the structure of the council of ministers is retained, Mr Gorbachev promised far-reaching personnel changes in his speech to parliament on Friday. They may include the defence minister, Marshal Dmitri Yazov, who will be held answerable for low morale in the armed forces, and the interior minister, Vadim Bakatin, who will be made the scapegoat for the breakdown of law and order,

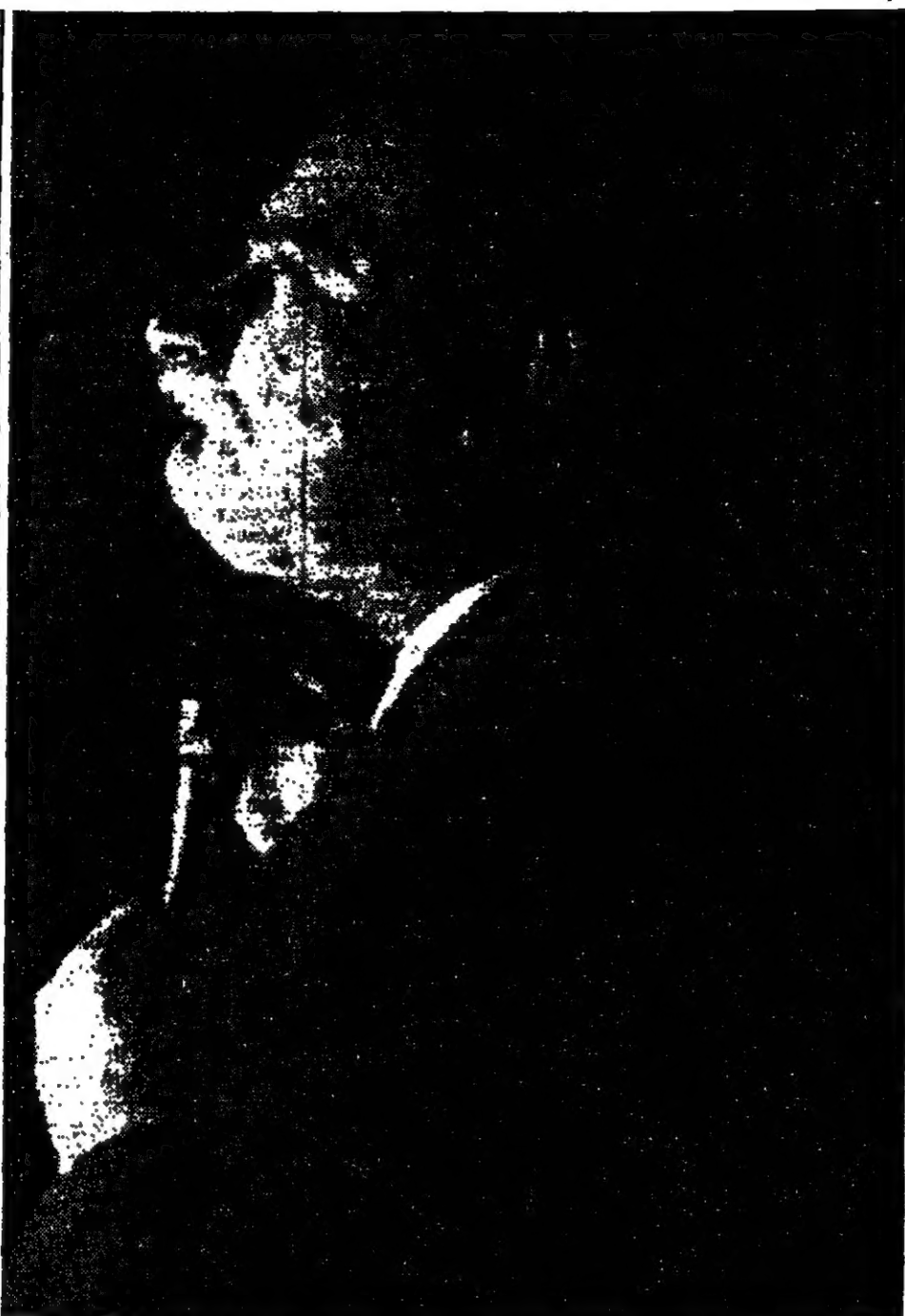
but whose real offence is to have displaced the army by accepting the idea that republics should have their own troops to maintain internal order.

The prospective administrative changes, which lobby gossip claimed had been drafted over Friday night in response to criticism from parliament that the president was passively watching the country fall to pieces, have delayed the presentation of next year's plan and budget amid suspicions that the documents are not ready, and may well postpone the proposed new union treaty. Misgivings expressed by republic representatives in parliament at the weekend indicated that few were prepared to sign it.

Mr Gorbachev's proposals, which also included pledges to improve the lot of the army and increase fuel supplies and reliability of railway deliveries, were well received by parliament and widely praised by his allies in public and in private. Many deputies were none the less sceptical about whether the new structures would make any difference.

A Russian Federation deputy said he thought the Russian parliament would refuse to ratify the new arrangements and that the battle for authority between the two parliaments would continue. The proposals were thought to cast doubt on the apparent agreement between Mr Gorbachev and the Russian president, Boris Yeltsin, to move towards a coalition government of national unity.

Given their stated intention of leaving the Soviet Union, the three Baltic states and Georgia appear unlikely to participate in any revamped council of the federation.



My way: Lech Walesa rallies support at a Warsaw presidential election meeting, in the face of falling poll ratings. The Solidarity leader criticised the pace of reform

Soviet troops encounter growing Baltic hostility

By ANATOL LIEVEN

RELATIONS between the Soviet armed forces and the Baltic republics have worsened after clashes in Lithuania and Latvia during recent days. In Lithuania at the weekend, a demonstration by radical nationalist groups outside the main Soviet army base in the capital, Vilnius, was dispersed by troops, who fired in the air and turned fire hoses on the crowd, which had thrown stones over the gates.

Lithuanians said the demonstration was in support of local youths who had refused to serve in the Soviet army. It did not have the support of the main nationalist movement, Sajudis, or the Lithuanian government, and the incident has not been given prominence in the local press.

Tension between Soviet soldiers and the local population is growing, and there are fears of further unrest. In neighbouring Latvia, the parliament has empowered

the government to cut off supplies of food and electricity to Soviet troops stationed there. This comes after the Black Berets, a group of paramilitary police under the command of the Soviet interior ministry, physically blocked the transfer of a Communist party headquarters in the town of Jurmala to the local administration.

Disputes have emerged throughout the Baltic states between the new national administrations and the Russian-dominated communist parties, which remain loyal to Moscow.

In Latvia, the Black Berets are guarding the republic's main printing house, ownership of which is disputed between the party and the state. Soviet troops were present during the clash in Jurmala, but reportedly took no action.

The mood of Soviet loyalist officers in the Baltic is becoming increasingly desperate.

According to a Soviet source in Riga, the Soviet high command is planning to dissolve the command structures, shifting its headquarters to Leningrad, which suggests that it, too, has recognised the inevitability of Baltic independence.

However, Baltic observers say that the threat to cut off supplies to the garrisons should not be taken too seriously. The Lithuanian parliament passed a similar measure earlier this year, but it was never put into effect.

According to Alvars Baumanis, chief of the Novosti press agency in Riga, the point is rather to reinforce Latvia's argument at the negotiating table that the Soviet army, as an "occupying force", has no legal status, and that future questions concerning its position will have to be negotiated as part of the independence process.

Bosnians vote for Europe and Muslim faith

FROM RICHARD BASSETT IN SARAJEVO

THE people of the Yugoslav republic of Bosnia-Herzegovina voted yesterday in the first multi-party election intended to assure a gradual transition to democracy after 45 years of communist rule.

The voters were electing 280 deputies to the republican parliament and a seven-member collective presidency. Initial reports suggested that the turnout would be high. According to polling station officers in Sarajevo, by midday 30 per cent of the electorate had cast their votes. Even in rural areas, where flimsy tents and paper boxes took the place of ballot boxes, voting was reported as brisk. The first unofficial returns are expected tomorrow.

Given the republic's high level of illiteracy — 40 per cent in 1988 — many papers could be spoilt and conclusive results may not be known until next Wednesday. Most observers expect the elections to have been conducted fairly, though already there have been allegations that electoral lists have been tampered with. Diplomats consider it likely that the results will be a vindication of Bosnia's unusual formula of equilibrium, which so far has weathered the storms of nationalism raging around it.

At a time when the tide of populism is sweeping Eastern Europe, the restrained, dignified figure of Adil Zulfikarpasic is an unusual sight. Yesterday, Mr Zulfikarpasic, leader of the moderate Bosniak party, strolled quietly along the cobbled streets where in 1914 a Bosnian anarchist shot dead the heir to the Austro-Hungarian throne.

Unattended by bodyguards, Mr Zulfikarpasic exchanged greetings with newspaper sellers and waiters in a low-key walkabout which has become typical of his otherwise high-profile campaign.

Mr Zulfikarpasic is a Muslim; he emphasises he is not a fanatic. More than 40 per cent of Bosnia's population of four million are Muslims. Compared to the Croats, who make up a Catholic fifth of the population and the Serbs who account for a third, the Bosnian Muslims are the most attached to their culture and religion. "They are the strongest and the most virile," Mr Zulfikarpasic says.

The potentially explosive mix of cultures has, since the second world war, rarely led to violence here. While Serbs in Belgrade and Croats in Zagreb may vilify each other, in Bosnia they get along. Mr Zulfikarpasic explains this as partly the result of the Muslims' influence, but he insists all Bosnians, whether Croats, Serbs or Muslims, share the same viewpoint.

Young Muslims disagree.

The Muslim Nationalist party of Alija Izetbegovic looked certain to capture most of the Muslim vote. Mr Izetbegovic has denounced Croatia and Serbia for their plans to extend their territory into Bosnia and so create either a Greater Croatia or Greater Serbia. His charismatic speeches are eagerly heard by a younger generation which is increasingly discovering the tenets of Islam and moving towards fundamentalism.

Yesterday, a delegation of Iranian leaders was also being shown around the bazaar in a maze of narrow streets that makes up the heart of Sarajevo. The Iranians met students from Sarajevo's Institute of Islamic Theology, many of whom were anxious to visit Iran.

For them, Mr Zulfikarpasic's slogan of "Vote for me and Europe", with its implication of greater ties with the European Community, is meaningless. So they were discussing Islamic fundamentalism with the students.

At a time when all those around them are espousing the cause of fanaticism, it is not exactly surprising that many of Sarajevo's young Muslims are turning towards Islamic fundamentalism.

Romanian communists resurface

Bucharest — Communists resurfaced under a new name in Romania yesterday. The Communist party, which evaporated after Nicolae Ceausescu was overthrown and executed, has been recreated by the Verdet, a senior party official until Ceausescu's downfall and a former prime minister and party co-founder, Constantin Pirlueta.

The revamped party, under the name of the Socialist Party of Labour, vowed to revive socialism with liberal left-wing policies. (Reuter)

Sofia protest

Sofia — More than 120,000 Bulgarians packed central Sofia and called on the embattled Socialist government to resign, in the biggest public protest since free elections last June. They massed amid a sea of blue flags of the opposition Union of Democratic Forces in Alexander Nevski Square, where Bulgaria's first free rally after 40 years of communism was held a year ago. (Reuter)

Berlin march

Berlin — Thousands of left-wing demonstrators marched through central Berlin to demand the return of squatter tenements cleared by police in street battles last week. Police called in reinforcements from other parts of Germany and flanked the demonstration brandishing shields and batons. (Reuter)

King's burial

Berlin — Frederick the Great, the 18th century philosopher-king who made Prussia a great military power, is to be reburied as he wished in Potsdam, 205 years after his death, a Sunday newspaper reported. He had been buried near Stuttgart. (Reuter)

Crash escape

Prague — A Soviet cargo plane carrying 15 tonnes of American cigarettes caught fire and crashed in northern Czechoslovakia on a flight from Biele to Moscow. The crew of six escaped with minor injuries when the aircraft came down near the spa town of Velichovky. (Reuter)

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Yeltsin poised to sign treaty with Ukraine

FROM ROBERT SEELY IN KIEV

BORIS Yeltsin, leader of the Russian Federation, is expected to sign a landmark treaty between the Russian Federation and Ukraine here today.

The agreement, which is expected to outline the two republics' economic relations, will bypass the central Soviet authorities. It will be seen as another blow to President Gorbachev's struggle to preserve the Soviet Union's fragile unity.

Mr Yeltsin and the Ukrainian president, Leonid Kravchuk, will meet today to sign the treaty and hold talks on the relationship between the two republics. By signing the agreement, Russia and Ukraine are effectively stating that they want sovereign control of their respective economies. There are still big



State of rage: a supporter of the Slovak Nationalists, demanding their own nation, shouting at a woman during a Bratislava rally at the weekend

Forces chief predicts war would end within days

From Christopher Walker in Dhahran

AS ALLIED troops and aircraft continued exercises in the Gulf yesterday, Lieutenant-General Sir Peter de la Billiere, the overall commander of British forces in the region, insisted that if the confrontation turned to war, it would be over in a matter of days.

The general's confident prediction, given in a rare briefing for Saudi journalists, ran counter to the warning by some prominent Western defence analysts that war could run on for weeks, even months, producing casualty figures of anywhere between 15,000 and 50,000.

"I think if there is a war, it will be a short one because of the overwhelming forces that Saudi Arabia now has," General de la Billiere said.

He said the allies already had overwhelming air superiority and, when extra reinforcements arrived over the next few weeks, they would also have ground superiority

over the whole front with Kuwait. He was optimistic that the casualty figures would not be "unnecessarily high" because the air attack that would precede any move on the ground towards occupied Kuwait would ensure that the Iraqi troops were "severely demoralised and substantially reduced in their fighting ability".

Many soldiers and officers remain sceptical, noting the extent of the fortifications dug by the Iraqis in Kuwait. Their views are supported by some senior Western diplomats, who believe the morale of the Iraqi army is higher than estimated.

General de la Billiere, a former commander of the SAS and a fluent Arabic speaker, also spoke optimistically about the chances of allied forces withstanding chemical attacks. He said the British contingent — now 17,000 troops — had the best protection kit in the world, which would enable it to continue fighting under gas bombardment.

According to the English-language *Arab News*, he ruled out an Iraqi attack on Saudi oil fields as unlikely because of the poor ability of the Iraqi pilots and the superiority of allied air defences, including their ability to shoot down incoming missiles. The general also dismissed suggestions that the Iraqis might set oil ablaze as part of their latest defensive plan.

On the complex issue of command and control, still causing confusion among the units of many countries in the desert, General de la Billiere confirmed that Britain had agreed to the Americans having tactical control of the air force and army. He said he reported to the overall commander of the allied forces, Saudi Lieutenant-General Prince Khalid bin Sultan, at least once a week.

The general's confidence was seen as part of an agreed British military tactic not to admit their many doubts publicly. He was speaking as American officials specialising in Middle Eastern affairs were expressing growing doubts about the strategic implications of a war on American interests in the region.

Soldiers and defence analysts alike acknowledge privately that the length of any war would depend to a large extent on the willingness of the Iraqi troops to continue fighting for long periods against overwhelming odds.

At the weekend, a leading Iraqi general argued that air power alone had never decided a war and said Iraqi numerical superiority on the ground and its battle experience would tell in its favour.

Writing in the Iraqi army paper *al-Qadisiya*, Major-General Mundhir Abdul-Rahman, a missile expert and chief of the army's morale and guidance department, claimed that Iraq was strategically prepared for an attack, despite Washington's plans to increase its strength by 150,000 men by the new year.

Stepping up the psychological war, the general also claimed Iraq had a "surprise" which would thwart an American attack.

Letters, page 15



Conference lift-off: a helicopter hovering above a street in central Paris in a trial run for possible evacuations at today's security meeting

Kohl pleads for caution on action against Saddam

From Ian Murray in Ogdensburg

HELMUT Kohl has urged President Bush not to go to war with Iraq. He made his plea when the two met over lunch in the German chancellor's suburban home here yesterday to discuss world problems.

Outside in the rain two young people in the crowd held up a blue banner with the words: "No war. Wait." That was very much the message the chancellor was giving to his guest as they reviewed the Gulf conflict.

President Bush, aware that the chancellor had said in a radio interview that morning that the Middle East problems must be solved by peaceful means, wanted a clear commitment that Germany would support a military action.

The chancellor, who was anxious not to offend the man he praised as being largely responsible for German unity, carefully said that it was up to the United Nations Security Council to decide on war.

When the two emerged after lunch they stood bare-headed in the rain to answer press questions. "We were in agreement here that the international community stood together and stands in a coalition which is on the basis of the UN resolution in the sense that we want to see respect for international law restored," the chancellor said.

"We were in agreement that it is of utmost importance to see a release of all hostages of all nationalities as soon as possible. This must be the most important prerequisite for any further talks and all negotiations which we hope will lead to peace. These negotiations can be successful only if both sides want their success as the consequences of this assault are removed."

The president, who said that lunch in the home of two friends had led to "a frank and open discussion," could only say that he echoed the chancellor's views. "The Germans are keeping the coalition and in my view they are fulfilling their role," he said.

Germany was now a world leader, he acknowledged.

"Anybody who takes a look at the map knows that this united Germany is and will be a tremendous force for peace and certainly for economic good in the world. I think we are together on the Gulf. I have made no special requests of Chancellor Kohl. This coalition is holding and will continue to hold. If we want a peaceful solution the best way is to hold together and send a solid signal to Saddam Hussein that this aggression will not be rewarded."

The White House press corps wanted to know about war. "We are not ruling out any options. I am not ruling out any options in," the president said. "The chancellor made it very clear he would like to see a peaceful solution to this question. So would I."

For his part the chancellor had wanted the United States to do more to help prop up President Gorbachev and to develop the economies of eastern Europe. Somewhat cheekily, he said that although he knew the American president was a busy man, he hoped he would find time soon to make a speech putting in a word for American investment in eastern Germany.

Yesterday the crowd waiting in the rain was smaller and less enthusiastic than the one which a week earlier had chanted: "Gorbys, Gorbys," as the Soviet president walked informally in the sunshine with the chancellor. Yesterday's crowd included several hundred Americans from the neighbouring United States bases and they led the cheers. There were a number of protesters waving banners saying: "No blood for oil," or: "No war games. No war in the Middle East."

The chancellor, sensing that this was the public mood just two weeks before the first all-German elections, gave no signs at all that he was backing anything but peace. While acknowledging that German unification would have been impossible without American support for freedom down the years, he told the crowd that peace should be the answer.

White House drums up support for use of force

From Martin Fletcher, Washington

PRESIDENT Bush has issued a warning, in a rare article for an American news magazine, that the United States cannot afford to wait indefinitely for sanctions against Iraq to work. "Many, understandably, counsel prolonged patience," he writes in this week's *Newsweek*, "yet it is grim reality that with each passing day the consequences of Saddam Hussein's aggression grow."

He cites several factors against a protracted stand-off: Iraq's "ominous" development of "the most sophisticated weapons of mass destruction known to man — nuclear and biological weapons," the fear of American citizens and US diplomats still in Kuwait, and the fact that "the potential cost in human lives of what would be needed to break Saddam's grip on Kuwait mounts as do the global economic costs of his aggression."

James Baker, the US Secretary of State, said yesterday

that Iraq was making "extraordinary efforts" to develop a nuclear capability, and the world should be very concerned. But he refused to disclose intelligence estimates of when it might achieve it, nor say whether Iraq was close enough to influence American action in the Gulf.

The *Newsweek* article is the latest hint from the administration that military action may be necessary sooner rather than later. In an interview last Thursday with Cable News Network Mr Bush said that there was a "ticking of the clock," saying the problem with trying to slowly strangle Iraq through sanctions was that "holding public opinion for ever in any country is very difficult to do."

Mr Baker last week signalled the administration's fading belief that the made embargo alone will persuade Iraq to leave Kuwait when he said it was impossible to say "with certainty" whether

sanctions would or would not work.

In the same article Mr Bush hints that American goals in the Gulf now include the permanent hobbling of Iraq's military might. "Iraq can never again be in a position to threaten the survival of its neighbours or our vital interests," he says. Richard Cheney, the Defence Secretary, spoke yesterday of the possible continued need once this crisis is over for international sanctions to prevent that happening.

Mr Bush's article and his CNN interview are part of a drive to bolster sagging public support for intervention in the Gulf and to respond to criticism that he has not adequately explained why that intervention is necessary. He reasoned yesterday that the world could not reward aggression, or could Iraq be allowed to have a stranglehold on the world's economic lifeline, its oil reserves.

Paris on alert for security summit

From Alan Tiller in Paris

HAVING hailed the security conference as the most important diplomatic gathering since the end of the second world war, the French government was taking no chances over security around the building.

Ten thousand gendarmes and troops guarded the boulevards and buildings in the centre of Paris. The area around the conference site on Avenue Kleber was completely sealed. The security covered a wide area, including the Avenue des Champs Elysées and the highways along the Seine opposite the Eiffel Tower.

Gendarmes were posted on rooftops, terraces and bridges. Vehicles had been systematically removed for days to prevent car bombs. Manhole covers had been lifted and police with barbed wire had entered the extensive sewer system to establish an underground "no go zone". Crack riflemen were posted near the Arc de Triomphe, 100 yards from the conference building. The authorities have feared the lone Jackal-style marksman since attempts on the life of General de Gaulle.

With 11 heads of state and 27 heads of government in town, traffic jams are expected for the next three days. The prefect of police plans to close main routes for "short" intervals, but last night he advised Parisians not to drive at all — an appeal that has never been heeded in the past.

Meanwhile, it was announced that Jean-Marie Le Pen, leader of France's main far-right party, left for Baghdad yesterday at the invitation of the Iraqi government. M Le Pen has been the only prominent French political leader to denounce President Mitterrand's Gulf policies since Iraq invaded Kuwait on August 2. He has urged the withdrawal of the 5,500 French troops in Saudi Arabia, and has described President Saddam Hussein of Iraq as a patriot.

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Leading article, page 15

Bush visit disappoints Czechs

From Peter Green in Prague

PRESIDENT Bush compared the Iraqi invasion of Kuwait to Hitler's annexation of Czechoslovakia at Munich in 1938 and said that world leaders should not again appease an aggressor.

In a televised speech during a 24-hour visit to Prague, he quoted Neville Chamberlain, the former British prime minister, saying: "You know the tragic consequences, when nations confronted with aggression choose to tell themselves it is no concern of theirs, just a quarrel in a faraway country between people of whom we know nothing."

But Czechoslovaks were disappointed by his whirlwind visit, which ended yesterday. Many said they were honoured by his presence on the first anniversary of their country's velvet revolution, and more than 100,000 people turned out to listen attentively to his 20-minute address in Wenceslas Square.

In his two speeches here Mr Bush made many promises, saying Czechoslovakia and the United States shared a history, a vision and friendship, and pledging America's support for Czechoslovakia as the country undertakes its difficult economic and political reforms. But all Mr Bush



Prague memento: a Czech schoolgirl in traditional dress presenting a book to Barbara Bush

brought with him was \$60 million (£30 million) to help free enterprise, copies of the United States Constitution, and a modern replica of the Liberty Bell, struck in Philadelphia when the 13 colonies declared their independence from Britain in 1776.

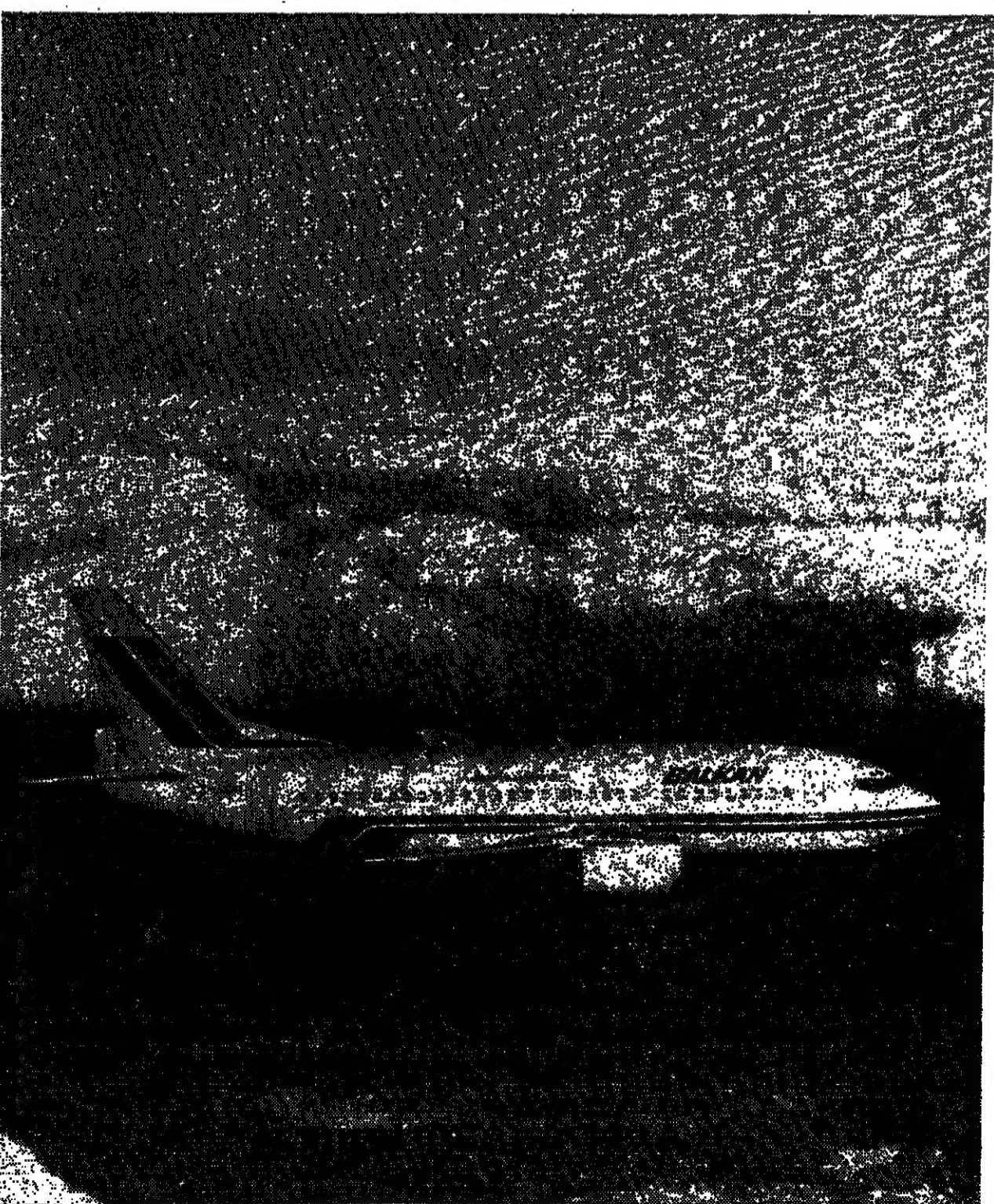
Mr Bush's speeches were in marked contrast to remarks by

President Havel of Czechoslovakia, who delivered a sombre assessment of his country's progress one year after the revolution began. "Today we are standing here somewhat embarrassed," he told the crowd. "We know very well what we have to accomplish. Why do we find it so difficult to launch our joint project off the ground?"

"Dissatisfaction, nervousness, insecurity and disillusionment are widespread in our society," Mr Havel said, adding that he was worried by the "rancour, rivalry, mutual denigration, envy and boundless ambition" infecting public life.

Mr Havel called on his countrymen to search their own souls. "Let us try to visualise the contours of our frequently parochial, myopic and dim-witted action as perceived by the civilised world." He also called on Czechs to look to the United States' own 200-year history of democracy as they struggled along the road to political and economic freedom.

In a remark that may indicate a tougher line towards the entrenched communist *nomenklatura*, he asked why "historic justice" had not been done to the leaders of the regime he helped to overthrow a year ago.



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Gorbachev vision wins over last of Cold War warriors

AMID all the complaints and heckling to which President Gorbachev was subjected last week, there were also compliments from two unexpected quarters. General John Galvin, Nato's supreme commander in Europe and a man widely regarded as an unreconstructed cold warrior, returned from his first meeting with the Soviet leader to describe him as a man "of vision and courage" and wish him well.

In the Soviet parliament, the new Armenian president, Levon Ter-Petrosian, a man who does not agree with Mr Gorbachev on much, lightened the otherwise black mood by finding a positive side to recent changes in the country. They included, he said, the revival of the republics as political entities and the absence of repression.

General Galvin is the latest in a line of foreign converts to Gorbachevism, following a trail blazed by Margaret Thatcher and Ronald Reagan. But what is the "vision" which has won over so many diehard sceptics? Few would contest Mr Ter-Petrosian's tribute, but the changes he mentioned do not

amount to a vision, and it is the word "vision" to which Mr Gorbachev's foreign guests repeatedly return.

The available shreds of evidence suggest that Mr Gorbachev does have a vision for his country, and that it combines much that Soviet citizens would applaud. He appears to want a "normal" country governed by the rule of law, a country in which moral values are shared by leaders and people; a country in which goods and services are bought and sold in a civilised way and not traded against favours; a country where people did not have to break the law to provide a decent living standard for themselves and their families, and where work was given its due reward. At a structural level, the country would be a federation of equal republics which voluntarily surrendered certain powers to the centre for the common good and greater strength of the whole. Most decisions would be taken locally, or by the republics.

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Even political foes and diehard sceptics praise the Soviet president's courage and his spirit in the fight to turn the Soviet Union into a United States of Eurasia, Mary Dejevsky reports

ogy would be the United States. The past two years have seen Mr Gorbachev increasingly lean towards a concept that in its final form could make the Soviet Union a United States of Eurasia. In this, the Soviet leader is reverting to a preoccupation of the early Soviet period with its slogan: "Catch up and overtake the United States", and its building of high-rise blocks and the Moscow Underground. But Mr Gorbachev's vision seems to consist in cumulation rather than competition.

Earlier this year, Mr Gorbachev made himself president with a swearing-in ceremony closely modelled on that of an American president. Recently there has been talk of a two-chamber parliament modelled on the US Congress. The powers that would be

delegated to the federal government under the new union treaty are presented as similar to those held by the United States government.

Mr Gorbachev has been host to John Sununu, the White House chief of staff, to learn about running a presidential office, and is on the verge of establishing a national "security council". The new union treaty is said to be a document that will replace the largely fictitious Soviet constitution, and work is believed to be in hand on a Soviet bill of rights. In recent weeks there has been official praise for aspects of American life, from the agriculture system to voting.

Russians frequently complain that Mr Gorbachev does not know where he is taking the country. He has been

compared with a pilot who has taken off without knowing whether there is anywhere to land. But he appears to have a destination, he knows how he would like his country to develop in the long term. The difficulty lies in getting there from here; he has taken off without either flying training or a map.

Mr Gorbachev has recently pleaded with the West to view the present Soviet problems as a crisis of transition, not of collapse. Some senior Western diplomats have sympathy for this view. They argue that disorder is inevitable during so fundamental a transition and that new, far healthier, decentralised structures could emerge. If all that is needed is a strong stomach, Mr Gorbachev is well equipped. One of his chief aides, Georgi Shakhnazarov, said last week with some awe that the Soviet leader never felt stress. "He is very self-confident."

Mr Gorbachev may be confident, but he has also been cautious. During his travels this autumn he signed declarations of friendship and security as written guarantees of foreign goodwill.

At home he has tried to ensure that all the changes, social, political and economic, take place with a backing of consensus and are controlled from the centre. He has repeatedly tried to create new structures before allowing the old ones to crumble completely, leaving old and new to battle for survival.

Co-operative ventures were encouraged to develop production of consumer goods and services; joint ventures were created to bring in foreign investment, and elected soviets were boosted to exert local power. Each of these initiatives has failed, been rethought or replaced, and this week the search is on for new political structures capable of controlling a situation that is already out of control.

Some believe that central control must be relinquished before any improvement is possible. Others fear anarchy. After Saturday's session of parliament, Mr Gorbachev has more central power than ever but exerts less overall control. It is, as Mr Gorbachev's new convert, General Galvin, said last week, going to be a "very rocky road".

Troubled republics weigh up benefits of Moscow reforms

FROM MARY DEJEVSKY IN MOSCOW

THE Russian Federation and other constituent republics of the Soviet Union were yesterday considering their response to Mikhail Gorbachev's move to extend his presidential powers and curb their recently acquired sovereignty.

Their deliberations followed the Soviet parliament's tentative approval of a new political structure that would sideline the central government and bring economic policy and law enforcement more directly under the president's control.

The structural changes, and measures to implement them, are to be discussed again next Friday when President Gorbachev returns from Paris. While approving Mr Gorbachev's proposals in principle, a tired and brow-beaten parliament rejected a resolution late on Saturday that would have given the president almost limitless powers to impose order throughout the country.

The fate of the prime minister, Nikolai Ryzhkov, was still unclear. Addressing parliament in the face of unrelenting criticism of his government, Mr Ryzhkov expressed support for administrative changes and complained of a concerted political campaign against him. He is tipped for the new post of vice-president. He made no mention of resignation, but conceded afterwards that the proposed changes could leave him without a job. "The post of prime minister," he was quoted as saying, "may cease to exist."

The new structure abolishes the 18-member presidential council of ministers and advisers, established only eight months ago, and replaces

it with a cabinet of ministers, an executive body, said to include the same key ministers, to oversee implementation of laws.

The Council of the Federation, which currently comprises the president, prime minister and Communist party leaders of all the Soviet Union's republics, is to have an enhanced role in policy-making and implementation, with each republic having the right of veto.

The purpose of this appears to be to give the republics more central power and bring the central and republic authorities closer. The disadvantage, according to some republic representatives, is that they, rather than the centre, could be blamed when laws and decrees were disregarded.

A new control chamber to oversee law and order and combat corruption would be created, directly answerable to the president in an apparent attempt to deflect criticism that the law and order situation is out of control.

The president has also proposed establishing a "security council" to provide him with information and advice. The name in Russian sounds more ominous than its UN equivalent, closer perhaps to a council for national salvation.

Even if the structure of the council of ministers is retained, Mr Gorbachev promised far-reaching personnel changes in his speech to parliament on Friday. They may include the defence minister, Marshal Dmitri Yazov, who will be held answerable for low morale in the armed forces, and the interior minister, Vadim Bakatin, who will be made the scapegoat for the breakdown of law and order,

but whose real offence is to have displaced the army by accepting the idea that republics should have their own troops to maintain internal order.

The prospective administrative changes, which lobby gossip claimed had been drafted over Friday night in response to criticism from parliament that the president was passively watching the country fall to pieces, have delayed the presentation of next year's plan and budget amid suspicions that the documents are not ready, and may well postpone the proposed new union treaty. Misgivings expressed by republic representatives in parliament at the weekend indicated that few were prepared to sign it.

Mr Gorbachev's proposals, which also included pledges to improve the lot of the army and increase fuel supplies and reliability of railway deliveries, were well received by parliament and widely praised by his allies in public and in private. Many deputies were none the less sceptical about whether the new structures would make any difference.

A Russian Federation deputy said he thought the Russian parliament would refuse to ratify the new arrangements and that the battle for authority between the two parliaments would continue. The proposals were thought to cast doubt on the apparent agreement between Mr Gorbachev and the Russian president, Boris Yeltsin, to move towards a coalition government of national unity.

Given their stated intention of leaving the Soviet Union, the three Baltic states and Georgia appear unlikely to participate in any revamped council of the federation.



My way: Lech Walesa rallies support at a Warsaw presidential election meeting, in the face of falling poll ratings. The Solidarity leader criticised the pace of reform

Soviet troops encounter growing Baltic hostility

By ANATOL LIEVEN

RELATIONS between the Soviet armed forces and the Baltic republics have worsened after clashes in Lithuania and Latvia during recent days.

In Lithuania at the weekend, a demonstration by radical nationalist groups outside the main Soviet army base in the capital, Vilnius, was dispersed by troops, who fired in the air and turned fire hoses on the crowd, which had thrown stones over the gates.

Lithuanians said the demonstration was in support of local youths who had refused to serve in the Soviet army. It did not have the support of the main nationalist movement, Sąjūdis.

In Latvia, the Black Berets are guarding the republic's main printing house, ownership of which is disputed between the party and the state. Soviet troops were present during the clash in Jūrmala, but reportedly took no action.

The mood of Soviet loyalist officers in the Baltic is becoming increasingly desperate.

According to a Soviet source in Riga, the Soviet high command is planning to dissolve the command structures, shifting its headquarters to Leningrad, which suggests that it, too, has recognised the inevitability of Baltic independence.

However, Baltic observers say that the threat to cut off supplies to the garrisons should not be taken too seriously. The Lithuanian parliament passed a similar measure earlier this year, but it was never put into effect.

According to Aivars Baumans, chief of the Novosti press agency in Riga, the point is rather to reinforce Latvia's argument at the negotiating table that the Soviet army, as an "occupying force", has no legal status, and that future questions concerning its position will have to be renegotiated as part of the independence process.

Mr Zulfikarpasic is a Muslim; he emphasises he is not a fanatic. More than 40 per cent of Bosnia's population of four million are Muslims. Compared to the Croats, who make up a Catholic fifth of the population and the Serbs who account for a third, the Bosnian Muslims are the most attached to their culture and religion. "They are the strongest and the most virile," Mr Zulfikarpasic says.

The potentially explosive mix of cultures has, since the second world war, rarely led to violence here. While Serbs in Belgrade and Croats in Zagreb may vilify each other, in Bosnia they get along. Mr Zulfikarpasic explains this as partly the result of the Muslims' influence, but he insists all Bosnians, whether Croats, Serbs or Muslims, share the same viewpoint.

Young Muslims disagree.

Bosnians vote for Europe and Muslim faith

FROM RICHARD BASSETT IN SARAJEVO

THE people of the Yugoslav republic of Bosnia-Herzegovina voted yesterday in the first multi-party election intended to assure a gradual transition to democracy after 45 years of communist rule.

The voters were electing 280 deputies to the republican parliament and a seven-member collective presidency. Initial reports suggested that the turnout would be high. According to polling station officers in Sarajevo, by midday 30 per cent of the electorate had cast their votes. Even in rural areas, where flimsy tents and paper boxes took the place of ballot boxes, voting was reported as brisk. The first unofficial returns are expected tomorrow.

Given the republic's high level of illiteracy—40 per cent in 1988—many papers could be spoilt and conclusive results may not be known until next Wednesday. Most observers expect the elections to have been conducted fairly, though already there have been allegations that electoral lists have been tampered with. Diplomats consider it likely that the results will be a vindication of Bosnia's unusual formula of equilibrium, which so far has weathered the storms of nationalism raging around it.

At a time when the tide of populism is sweeping Eastern Europe, the restrained, dignified figure of Adil Zulfikarpasic is an unusual sight. Yesterday, Mr Zulfikarpasic, leader of the moderate Bosniak party, strolled quietly along the cobbled streets where in 1914 a Bosnian anarchist shot dead the heir to the Austro-Hungarian throne. Unattended by bodyguards, Mr Zulfikarpasic exchanged greetings with newspaper sellers and waiters in a low-key walkabout which has become typical of his otherwise high-profile campaign.

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Young Muslims disagree.

Romanian communists resurface

Bucharest—Communists resurfaced under a new name in Romania yesterday. The Communist party, which evaporated after Nicolae Ceausescu was overthrown and executed, has been recreated by Ilie Verdet, a senior party official until Ceausescu's downfall and a former prime minister and party co-founder, Constantin Piriulescu.

The revamped party, under the name of the Socialist Party of Labour, vowed to revive socialism with liberal left-wing policies. (Reuter)

Sofia protest

Sofia—More than 120,000 Bulgarians packed central Sofia and called on the embattled Socialist government to resign, in the biggest public protest since free elections last June. They massed amid a sea of blue flags of the opposition Union of Democratic Forces in Alexander Nevski Square, where Bulgaria's first free rally after 40 years of communism was held a year ago. (Reuter)

Berlin march

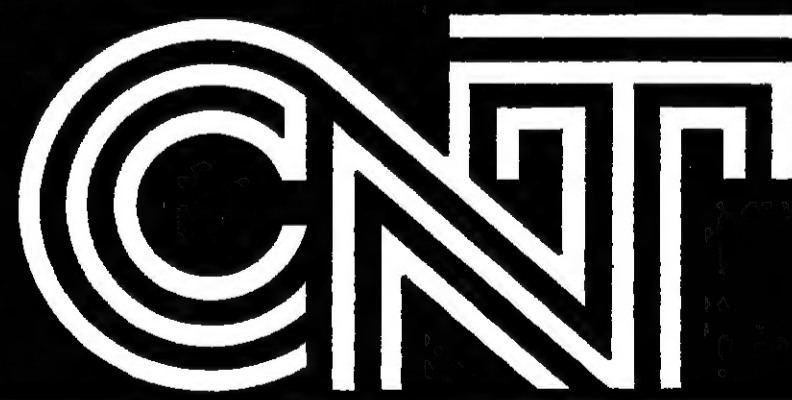
Berlin—Thousands of left-wing demonstrators marched through central Berlin to demand the return of squatter tenements cleared by police in street battles last week. Police called in reinforcements from other parts of Germany and flanked the demonstration brandishing shields and batons. (Reuter)

King's burial

Berlin—Frederick the Great, the 18th century philosopher-king who made Prussia a great military power, is to be reburied as he wished in Potsdam, 205 years after his death, a Sunday newspaper reported. He had been buried near Stuttgart. (Reuter)

Crash escape

Prague—A Soviet cargo plane carrying 15 tonnes of American cigarettes caught fire and crashed in northern Czechoslovakia on a flight from Basle to Moscow. The crew of six escaped with minor injuries when the aircraft came down near the spa town of Velichovky. (Reuter)



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Yeltsin poised to sign treaty with Ukraine

FROM ROBERT SEELY IN KIEV

BORIS Yeltsin, leader of the Russian Federation, is expected to sign a landmark treaty between the Russian Federation and Ukraine here today.

The agreement, which is expected to outline the two republics' economic relations, will bypass the central Soviet authorities. It will be seen as another blow to President Gorbachev's struggle to preserve the Soviet Union's fragile unity.

Mr Yeltsin and the Ukrainian president, Leonid Kravchuk, will meet today to sign the treaty and hold talks on the relationship between the two republics. By signing the agreement, Russia and Ukraine are effectively stating that they want sovereign control of their respective economies. There are still big

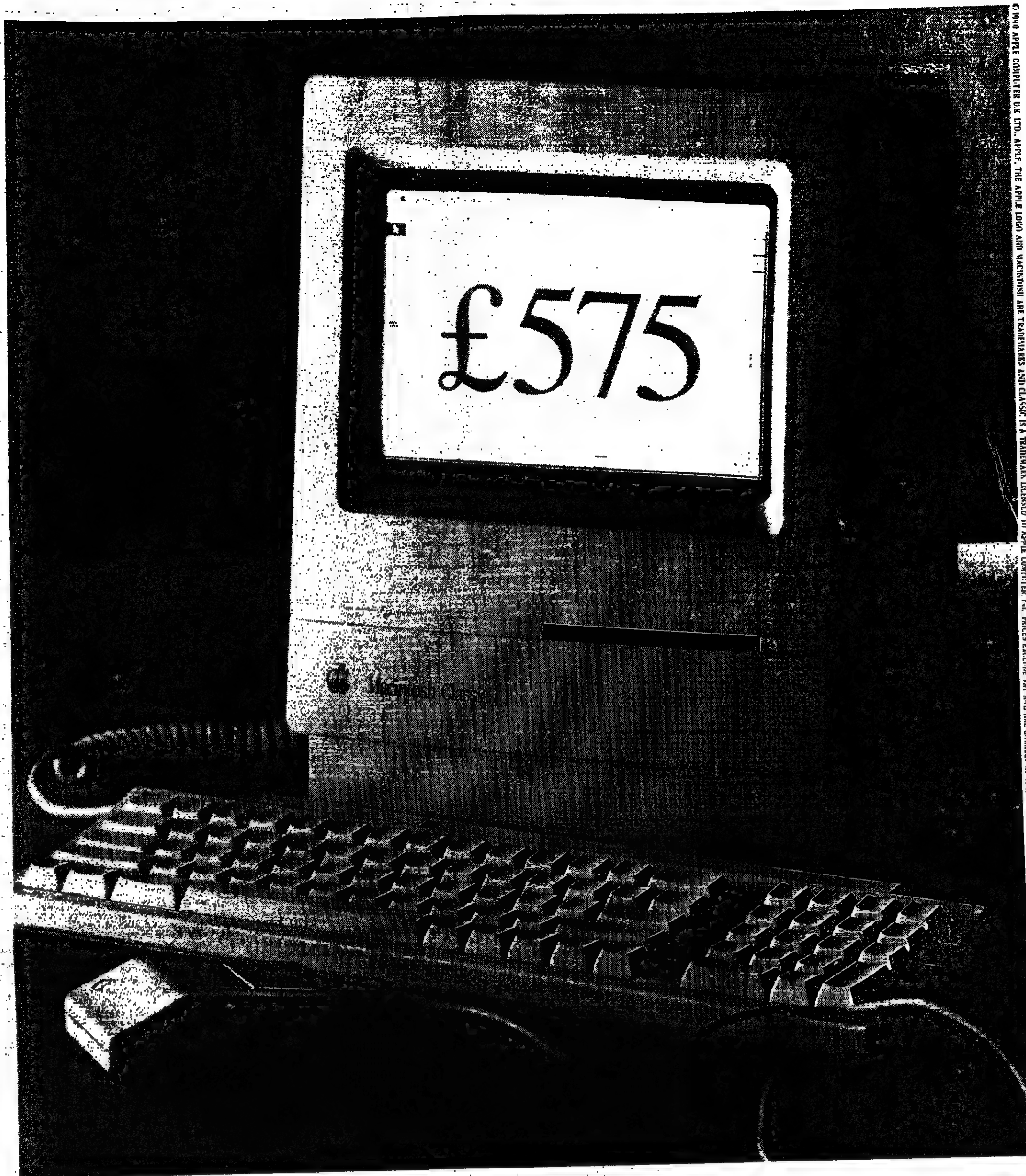
differences in the political situation between the two republics. Mr Yeltsin is one of Russia's leading radicals, while in Ukraine pro-Soviet communists still hold a majority in the republic's parliament.

MOSCOW: An unidentified gunman shot dead a young Russian Orthodox priest in the west Ukrainian village of Banyliv, the trade union paper *Trud* reported yesterday. It said investigators had no clues as to why the priest was murdered.

Western Ukraine has been plagued by clashes between members of the Catholic Union and Orthodox churches in a dispute over Uniate houses of worship seized under Stalin after the second world war and given to the Orthodox denomination. (AFP)



State of rage: a supporter of the Slovak Nationalists, demanding their own nation, shouting at a woman during a Bratislava rally at the weekend



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In place of the boxes

Marcus Binney

Christopher Patten, the environment secretary, has indicated how he believes government can improve the quality of new architecture. Going a step further than Nicholas Ridley, who was virulently anti-planner, he tentatively suggests the Prince of Wales's favoured recipe: building codes. He wants to restrict these, however, to general matters. That is not enough.

Planning committees must have the freedom to reject a design because it is boring, bland, faceless, insipid, or lacking in character without the applicant whingeing to Mr Patten about aesthetic interference by vexatious councillors.

The buildings the public dislikes are not inevitably the avant garde but, above all, the hackneyed, soulless, repetitive, concrete-and-steel boxes with endless rows of identical windows, drab colouring, and no enlivening detail. The most popular recent building in London (disdained by some architects) is the Marco Polo building on the approach to Chelsea Bridge. Its gleaming white and grey livery makes so startling a contrast to the surrounding depressed area.

The mistake always made is to assume that any kind of aesthetic control automatically means that planning officers and councillors will start dictating style. What they need is the ability to do three things. The first is to require (as Mr Patten accepts) that a building pays more consideration to its context. This does not mean it has to be tame or insipid. It can be a contrast, even a strident one, like the still controversial space rocket in St James's on the site of the old Map House.

Second, they must be able to insist, in conspicuous locations, that a building has a distinct individuality. Mr Patten balks at pastiche (his remark, "I am not over-fond of Victorian neo-Gothic", will be the despair of the Victorian Society) without recognising that the most objectionable forms of pastiche or imitation are the thousands and thousands of modern buildings that are virtual carbon copies of similar buildings elsewhere. Tackiness is not just tacked-on beams but tacked-on panels in concrete, glass reinforced fibre, aluminium, or whatever, which hideously stain in a few years.

Third, planning committees must be able to exercise a judgment on the quality of the actual construction, the materials, the finish, and the details. They must have the confidence, and the backing from Mr Patten's department, to throw out the cheapie speculative office block in the centre of town without dictating the appearance of every showroom and filling station on the ring road. Many new buildings are objectionable principally because the detailing is so crude. This does not mean a reversion to curlicue carving or stiff leaf foliage. Many

high-tech joints are as beautiful as pieces of abstract sculpture.

Here Mr Patten points to the way. He proposes that "three or four local authorities could produce design guidelines to see how they work". One obvious candidate is Westminster city council. There the planning department, backed by a committee concerned for consistency, is sending out a clear message to developers and securing a higher standard of new building than in any other part of London.

Mr Patten rightly stresses that government can set a key example as patron. The problem, of course, is that generally it does not. The solution, it seems, is to give commissions to small practices of widely acknowledged talent and sensitivity (as it sometimes already does), or, if they must go to the vast jobbing practices that usually win such plums, only to named designers within them.

British Rail, which is under more stringent financial pressure than virtually any other public body in the country, has commissioned Sir Norman Foster for the new King's Cross interchange and Stansted Airport station. Nicholas Grimshaw for the Waterloo terminus of the Channel tunnel, as well as Cedric Price, the greatest avant-garde of them all.

For a truly inspiring example of excellence in new public architecture, Mr Patten can simply look to Hampshire county council. Here the leader, Councillor Frederick Emery-Wallis, and the county architect, Colin Stansfield Smith, have produced over the last decade one of the most impressive architectural portfolios in Western Europe, of schools, police and fire stations, civic offices and social facilities. This has been achieved first of all by recruiting talent to the in-house team and giving it support and opportunity, and by offering commissions to some of the country's brightest stars.

There is no secret formula in selecting a good architect. Britain suddenly has a range of architectural talent not seen in years. Any one of 30 to 40 practices, most of which regularly win competitions, would be virtually guaranteed to produce excellent public buildings if, as Mr Patten promises, he "and the government generally ensure the buildings we commission are to a high standard".

To ensure first-rate public architecture, Mr Patten and his colleagues should stop weighing themselves down with selection committees of people recommended by the Royal Institute of British Architects and must not be overwhelmed by specialist assessors, especially quantity surveyors, who balk at anything that is not a conventional concrete or steel box.

Mr Patten has offered to lead the way. Let him now show boldness and determination. The author is president of SAVE Britain's Heritage.

...and moreover

MATTHEW PARRIS

"THE HALF," said the 8th century Greek poet Hesiod, "is more than the whole." One is wont to quote this wisely without the least idea what Hesiod meant. But at last I know, for, perusing my fortnightly issue of the *Peak Adviser* (incorporating the *Peak and Dales Property Guide*) my eye falls upon the "For Sale" column in the paper's extensive classified advertising section.

Within seconds I am agog. So Hesiod was anticipating the advent of the flat freshet! For here, in flat schoolboy prose, are a hundred tales half told. Here are the clues — casually dropped — to affairs of the human heart on a scale of tragedy and triumph so wild as to make a Brontë blush. By comparison with the epic each entry seems to announce reality can only disappoint.

● *Spong minding set, unused, £5. Two ladies nightdresses, size 40-42 £2.50 each. Tel: Mallock 73...* No, on second thoughts I shall omit the telephone number in case this paper should fall into the hands of the wrong sort of element.

● *Austrian blind, 5' across 6' drop, with matching lampshades £25. Ladies two-piece suit, jacket short sleeves, tailored skirt size 14, never worn...* Ah! with what unspoken sorrow was that phrase penned — and with what suppressed anger the postscript: *No offers.*

Was it the lady who had no offers? The phone number betrays a Hope Valley exchange. Was she out of place, there, where sheep graze on the high moorlands? Were the sleeves too short, the skirt too tailored for the rainswept informality of rural Derbyshire life?

No, I picture a different story. There was no lady. She existed only in the mind of a deluded Austrian professor, conscripted into Hitler's air force, shot down over Lincolnshire and given forced wartime labour repairing dry-stone walls on a farm near Hope. Afterwards he stayed, believing that his young Viennese fiancée would surely join him.

That was 1946. They broke it to him gently, of course. They told him of the Italian captain who had swept

her off her feet. But four long years — raw winters, biting wind and bleeding hands (hands more used to classical translations than heavy gristone blocks), through which torment the will to survive came only from the certainty that, one day, dear delicate Ermintrudel would fly to his arms — four years of purgatory would not allow him to doubt that heaven would soon be his.

He never returned to his studies. At the local pub they used to smile at the ragged fellow in the corner, silent, solitary, painfully polite, staring into the single glass of peach schnapps over which he whiled away each evening. The landlord kept a bottle, just for him.

"Jilted," they whispered — as if he couldn't hear! He would turn away in pain. "D'you know he was once some kind of professor. Repairs walls, now. Lives in a caravan. Partitioned off one half of the 'van and set it up — furnished like — for the girl who jilted him. He means the train every week."

"Austrian blind" — in a caravan, for God's sake! — and matching lampshades, of all things! A wardrobe with clothes he had bought for her — fancy suit from Vienna, they say. Poor old boy...

No offers. Oh, editor of the classified section, what pain do those two words hide!

And what is this? *Snooker table, with balls, £50. M size violin with case, red velvet vinyl chair...* This seller should meet the chap, one column on, boggling the electric fire, one bar of gold and ladies showerproof coat. They could invite the vendor of a grey polyester country and western jacket, £10 together with *Skoda car manual* (72ca85) and have a party. Frankly, the bloke offering a *storage pouffe, pink dralon, new, and a bell electric fire, flame effect would be out of place — happier, maybe, with the family selling electric organ and a concrete half ton coal bunker.*

But something stops me in my tracks: *Eplady leg shaver, never been used, £20 ono. Motor cycle jacket, leather £20...* Come, come, Mrs Thatcher. Surely it is too early, yet, to throw in the towel?

In her last interview before tomorrow's Tory vote, Margaret Thatcher tells Simon Jenkins of her regrets, and her scorn for Mr Heseltine's policies

I have not finished yet



Mrs Thatcher relaxes at 10 Downing Street for a *Times* photographer yesterday. "I am not going on and on, but I do want to entrench what Keith Joseph and others believed in"

Heseltine and what she regards as his industrial philosophy in the past? What had brought it to the surface now? What flank has she left uncovered that her supporters are now able to exploit?

Her vulnerability to what she sees as Heseltine's corporatism is partly the plea of MPs for intervention for local firms in recession: "Obviously the tendency is to say, 'Please can we have some help to see us through a difficult period?' When we came in we were told that you can never let a big company go. But we had to. The more you help, the more you are helping... the industries of yesterday."

But to Mrs Thatcher, the black hole now threatening to engulf her is, of course, inflation. Press Mrs Thatcher hard — it has to be hard — and the one error to which she will confess is the credit expansion of 1987-88, when Nigel Lawson halved interest rates. Can open her heart on her deathbed and you will find written the words, "Shadowing the Deutschmark". She refers to these years as "the two I lost", the "setback", the time "when I gave in". If she is beaten this week, it will be to those years that she will look back in despair.

The culprit is obvious, a belief in Mr Lawson that she allowed briefly to overcome her belief in monetarism (coupled with the name of Sir Alan Walters). Yet she retains a strong loyalty to Mr Lawson. "Nigel was a very original thinker, an imaginative thinker." But times were different then. "We used not to have as many general discussions. He liked to play his cards close to his chest. That was his style. I had my style (Mrs Thatcher implies that hers was modest by comparison) and he had his. I wish to goodness that he had not left. I had thought

he would wish to stay until inflation was down. He didn't."

"You may accuse me of being very tough. But that was Nigel's style. He had his own way. They had a new theory [shadowing the Deutschmark] and they wanted to do it Nigel's way. He had a fertile imagination. You need a fertile imagination, Nick Ridley had a fertile imagination, to think the unthinkable and do the impossible."

And what of other colleagues who, like Mr Lawson, ultimately found her style too much for them — however differently she may

'Had I faltered, we would have neither the success nor international reputation we have. Yet when a woman is strong, she is strident. If a man is strong, he's a good guy'

have seen them? Sir Geoffrey Howe, for instance? "Geoffrey had very great qualities. I think his greatest time was as Chancellor of the Exchequer. I think that was when we came nearer to a sort of fervour. We had to lay the foundation. We switched from direct to indirect. We did things which were tough, and believe me, the polls were terrible. And now? Now we have got

inflation. We have got inflation because we departed from those fundamental principles. You went away from the medium-term financial strategy to look at the exchange rate and that meant you were shadowing something else." (Mrs Thatcher is famous for switching to second person when discussing herself.)

"You cannot have two masters. If your exchange rate is your master there will come a time when the exchange rate will either signal an increase or a reduction in interest rates, when your money supply is signalling something different. The interest rate came right down when monetary conditions were signalling that it should not."

And whom did she blame? "That's the time when I departed from the plan. If I might say so, I think my view has been upheld, even though I did not press it to its logical conclusion. Ironically, this was the one time I didn't stand out for what I believed in enough. That put us back into inflation."

Inflation, the cause of her woes. "Mortgages really have become very heavy indeed. We are trying to cope with community charge by extending transitional relief. But these two things, mortgages and community charge, are the difficulty. I believe we are within sight of dealing with them. It will take time. But if we are led by the polls, we should be guilty of the worst short-termism."

Mrs Thatcher has often been taunted with her political longevity. But, she points out, she cannot put dates on her departure. "I am not going on and on and on, but I do want to entrench what Keith Joseph and others believed in. I have more believers round me now than I had before. Then I had to fight people who were not

believers, because I had to get a majority. That is why I now feel very deeply that it might not go the way for which I have fought. We would not have commanded the respect overseas had we not done these things fearlessly."

If inflation is acknowledged an error, the same is not true of the cause of the moment, Europe. Here her anger is directed at the familiar target, the double standard. "I've seen [other European leaders] being much more of a fuss about the Uruguay [Gat] round when they wouldn't face the immediate issue. We should not have got that thrashed out."

Certainly, Mrs Thatcher sees Europe as a negotiating forum rather than a system for "tying up basically different cultures". But her commitment to European co-operation, as over world trade, is strong. "Unless we had kicked up a fuss about the Uruguay [Gat] round when they wouldn't face the immediate issue, we should not have got that thrashed out."

The consensus so often demanded by her critics at a time of cabinet defection is, for her, the source of ideological scorn. "You would never have had any of the great philosophies or religions if you had gone out and said, 'Brothers, I believe in consensus'. Never. Consensus is a form of words you use when you cannot get agreement, which means different things to different people. That's what you sometimes have in the United Nations."

But then as in her response to all charges of being overbearing, Mrs Thatcher cannot resist hinting at the old bugbear of male chauvinism, what she calls "a little bit of psychology". "Had I faltered, or taken some of the easy short-term ways out, we would have neither the success nor the international reputation we have. Yet when a woman is strong, she is strident. If a man is strong, he's a good guy. Some of the things that have been said to me... but never mind."

Mrs Thatcher this past weekend cuts the same solitary figure she cut in her first bid for the leadership. She came to the job as an outsider, the candidate of the "peasants' revolt" of the day, the rules of which she studied the rules to which she is now vulnerable. These rules are the law and order of her politics and she cannot deny them, infuriating though she finds them when she is fighting at home and overseas and feels entitled to her party's support.

She used these rules to fight the grandees, the mandarins, the party establishment, and she crushed them. Now another generation is pushing forward, but she sees the battle not in generational but ideological terms. The enemy is the same old guard, demanding the three Cs of consensus, compromise and corporatism, bound up in the person of Michael Heseltine.

She has given the Conservative party three election victories in a row, seeing it through good times and bad. To her, now is merely another bad time from which recovery is certain. Yet she must put up with tomorrow. Her resolution does not crack, but she does start forward in her chair and permit a rare glimpse of human vulnerability. "After three elections, I really would be the cruellest thing."

Denis left in the rough

While Michael Heseltine's wife Anne has played a highly visible role in a Tory leadership campaign, not a word has been heard in public from Denis Thatcher. Many believe he has been privately urging his wife to throw it in if she does not win by a convincing majority on the first ballot tomorrow, and his attitude may be partly due to what he sees as betrayal by many of those he had counted among his most loyal friends.

Foremost among those he feels have let him down is Sir Neil Macfarlane, who succeeded Heseltine's appointment and is one of his chief campaign managers. Thatcher and Macfarlane have been friends for years and are old adversaries on the golf course. Their friendship weathered Macfarlane's disavowal as sports minister five years ago, and many believe that Denis was influential in subsequently securing him a knighthood.

But whether the friendship can survive the leadership contest is another matter. Although neither will comment publicly, it is open knowledge among their friends that at least one bitter telephone call has taken place. Thatcher has angrily been telling his friends in the clubhouse: "You can't play golf with a man one day and savage his wife the next."

Like another of Heseltine's senior lieutenants, Michael Mates in East Hampshire, Macfarlane has upset many members of his own Conservative association in Sutton and Chesham who do not want to see Mrs Thatcher defeated. Gordon Birkett, Macfarlane's constituency agent, says: "I am a supporter of Mrs Thatcher. Some members of the association have been saying for a while that they think she has been there too long, but there are very

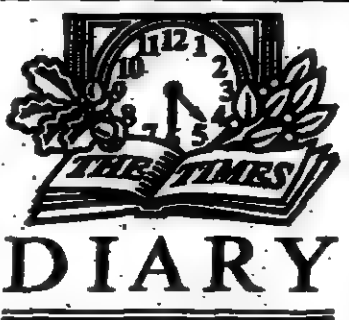
few who want to unseat her. Most think she should go when she wants to go."

Calls for Macfarlane's deselection look almost inevitable, but he is probably none too worried. Even in the event of a Heseltine victory, he would not seek a recall to government. He is much too busy helping to organise the next rugby world cup and golf's 1991 Ryder Cup. If they are still on speaking terms, he could probably get Denis Thatcher a couple of complimentary tickets. After all, if Sir Neil's other plans work out, his old friend may be finding retirement in Dalwhinnie a little dull by then.

Moses revisited

A archaeological expedition in the California desert has been hoping this weekend to unearth an ancient Egyptian city containing four 35ft statues of the pharaohs Ramesses and 21 giant sphinxes, each weighing five tons. A ground-penetrating radar is being used in the search — 150 miles north-west of Los Angeles — for which the Bank of America has donated \$10,000.

There is talk of it being potentially one of the most exciting finds in American history. Unfortunately, the discovery will be of little interest to genuine Egyptologists. What the ex-



pedition hopes to unearth is, in fact, the long-buried set of Cecil B. De Mille's 1923 epic film, *The Ten Commandments*.

The set apparently stood ten storeys high, was 750ft long and required 500,000ft of timber, 250 tons of plaster and 25,000lb of nails to construct. The Bank of America's sudden interest in archaeology is easily explained. Its founding president, A.P. Giannini, loaned De Mille \$500,000 when the film, which eventually cost \$1.4 million to make, ran over budget. It proved to be a shrewd investment. The film went on to make \$4.1 million.

Karl Johnson, the administrative co-ordinator of Hollywood Heritage, which actively preserves film industry artefacts, says: "The set was too expensive to dismantle and I think it would have upset De Mille to destroy it." De Mille ordered it to be buried, hinting in his memoirs that he was not averse to playing a practical joke on future archaeologists who might stumble upon the site and rewrite world history.

Howe regrets...

Sir Geoffrey Howe has cancelled a long-standing invitation to address the Bruges Group, that scourge of the Euro-federalists named after the Belgian city where Mrs Thatcher delivered her most stinging attack on Jacques Delors and friends. "Sir Geoffrey did not think he would

be terribly welcome any more," says a spokesman for his office. "I think both sides are relieved."

Not to insist the Bruges Group, Lord Harris of High Cross, who was to have chaired next Friday's meeting, says: "I would not have let blood spill on the carpet or have allowed any fuss. Some people may think Sir Geoffrey is running away, but I know that he can look after himself."

Others are less sure, pointing out that Sir Leon Brittan recently addressed the group and defended himself strongly against accusations that he had "gone native" since he went to Brussels. "Tory MP Bill Cash, one of the group's most hardline members, says: "If a European commissioner can come and show he is not scared, you have to say at the very least that we are disappointed that Sir Geoffrey has backed out."

Whitehall muffler

Sir Nicholas Henderson, who was British ambassador to the Falklands war, has written his memoirs — but has been prevented from publishing them. "He submitted a draft," says the Foreign Office, "and we had reservations about certain parts which he decided not to change."

The ban has been imposed under the Radcliffe Rules, formulated in 1976 to control the memoirs of ministers and civil servants. Sir Nicholas will now have to wait until 1997 — 15 years after his retirement — before publication can go ahead.

The delay will frustrate historians for Sir Nicholas, who is 71, was closely involved in British foreign policy in the postwar years. He inspected Hitler's bunker with Anthony Eden in 1945 and was private secretary to Michael Stewart during the Labour government's support for American action in the Vietnam war.

ministers can apparently publish kiss-and-tell accounts with impunity while career diplomats such as Sir Nicholas cannot? Lord Chailsham, former Lord Chancellor, and a recent autobiographer, says the rules are stricter for career servants. "I assume that Sir Nicholas accumulated an enormous mass of very sensitive material. With ministers, there is a limit to what they can write."

Had Mrs Thatcher not summoned him from retirement in 1979 to go to Washington, Sir Nicholas — now a director of Solihull — and a trustee of the National Gallery — could look forward to an earlier publication date. Still a stickler for playing by the rules, he says, "I am not something I want to talk about."

Shadowing Saddam

Nobody has been watching the unfolding drama in the Gulf more keenly than Gerald Seymour, author of *Harry's Game*, who is astonished at how closely his latest work mirrors reality there. *Conditionals* deals with Iraq's quest for a nuclear bomb. It speculates that the Iraqis have been buying information and equipment abroad, and that European nuclear scientists have been working surreptitiously in Baghdad. "When customs officers at Heathrow impounded a shipment of American-made nuclear triggers bound for Iraq, I was visibly trembling," he says. "Then, while I was working on a chapter about the arrest of a British journalist for alleged spying, news came in about the charges against Farzad Bazofi."

Seymour's book will be published in February, and will, he believes, be the first suspense novel set in Saddam's Iraq. So how exactly will the crisis be resolved? "On that one I wouldn't like to stick my neck out."

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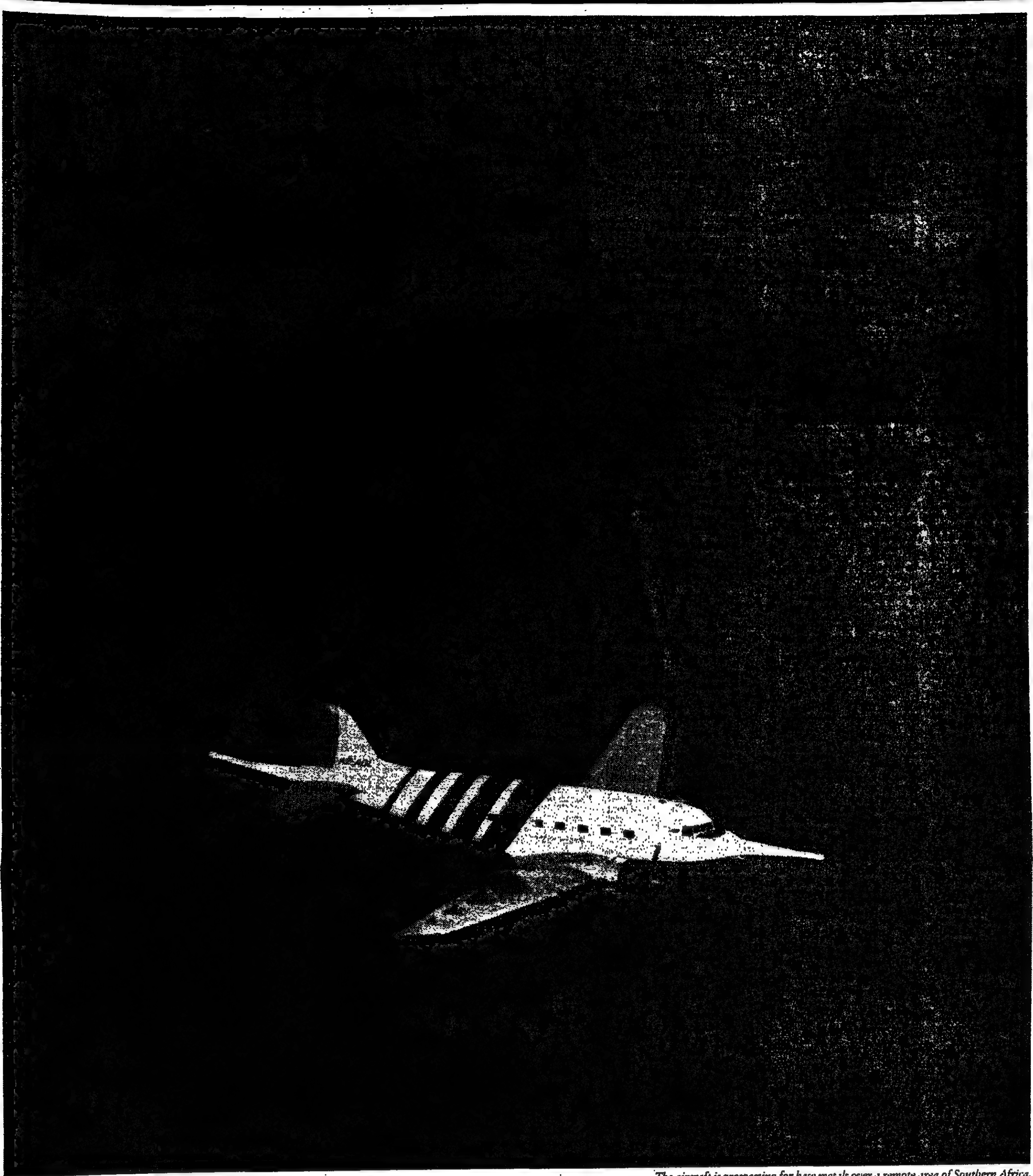
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Polys put their mettle on

Polytechnics are celebrating their 21st anniversary and fighting for parity with universities. John O'Leary looks at the battle plans

Higher education's anniversary season continues today. After last week's silver jubilee of the new universities, it is the turn of the polytechnics, which are celebrating 21 years with National Polytechnics Week.

The 32 institutions believe the Nineties will be their decade and are not slow to tell anybody who will listen. Although most activities during the next five days will be light-hearted and devoted to the Children in Need appeal, the polytechnics are on the offensive, determined to make the most of what they see as a public-relations advantage over the universities.

Less than a decade ago, they found that an embarrassingly low proportion of MPs knew what went on in polytechnics. Now they have glowing messages of support from the Prince of Wales, Margaret Thatcher and Neil Kinnock. They hope this week will help to raise the profile still further and ensure that their status as the government's favourite higher education sector will be translated into hard cash.

This month's autumn statement on public spending was promising, giving a bigger budget increase for polytechnics and colleges than universities, but the polytechnic directors are looking for more.

John Stoddart, their chairman, echoed the moderate line taken by the universities after the announcement, insisting that their budgets would not be big enough to "patch the leaks in our roofs".

The budget increase of 10.5 per cent for polytechnics and colleges should cover the immediate expansion in student numbers and ensure that funding will slip no further. Ten per cent more students are expected this year, repeating the 1989 increase. As fees are going up again and the funding system is geared to growth, it is certain that recruitment will be strong again in 1991.

Capital spending will also begin to take off at last, £35 million having been added to the government's planned total for 1991-92. Yet even the £128 million set aside for capital and equipment



Time for clowning: but the light-heartedness at Middlesex Polytechnic masks serious objectives.

will not make good the backlog of work that has built up over the years and take care of the future in a sector that is genuinely close to capacity in places. Consultants have put the bill at £547 million.

Polytechnics are expected to tackle some of their capital problems themselves. They have been given the freedom to borrow up to £20 million, depending on their size and turnover. So far, only the Polytechnic of North London, which took up an option to buy its business school premises, has used the new powers.

This deal is worth £8 million and will save the polytechnic money in the long run. The polytechnic's bankers were happy to sanction its intervention in a depressed property market, taking over negotiations started by the Inner London Education Authority. Other institutions can be expected to follow before long.

Although deals of this sort will not themselves enable the direc-

"Surely it is now indefensible that the funds received by an institution to teach students on similar courses to a similar level should vary depending on an institutional title"

tors to realise the ambitious development plans they will be outlining this week, they do illustrate the freedom of action the polytechnics sought in breaking away from local authorities. Having made sure that they can cope with independence, they see an opportunity to cash in on the disarray in university planning.

Ministers have complimented the polytechnics consistently on

their record of expansion and increased efficiency. John MacGregor, in his last message to them as education secretary, even felt moved to assure polytechnic governors that he meant when he said in his congratulations for the coming week. Unit costs have dropped by about a quarter in recent years, and the inspectors have found no reduction in quality so far.

Lecturers' union officials, who will stage the second day of strikes in their pay dispute during the week, say this is unrealistic. They talk of seminar groups the size of primary school classes in some polytechnics and salute the universities for resisting the pressure to handle such large groups.

The directors, too, acknowledge that staffing ratios cannot increase indefinitely without quality suffering, but they are relying on ministers to keep their promise that expansion will be rewarded financially.

Last week they presented Alan Howarth, the higher education minister, with development proposals drawn up by Laing Hardec, the director of Newcastle Polytechnic. The proposals envisage an American-style system in which the polytechnics and some universities would equate to the state universities, forming the link between research universities and community colleges.

Mr Stoddart took up the theme in a wide-ranging speech to last week's conference of the Polytechnic Association for Continuing Education in Nottingham. In it, he committed the polytechnics to a further expansion of part-time education, greater flexibility in course design and teaching hours, and more responsiveness to older students' needs.

Although polytechnics had pioneered "non-traditional" higher education, he said they had experienced only limited success in legitimising the practice within their own institutions and more widely. His answer to problems of accommodation was to bring the further education colleges into partnership in the feeder role fulfilled by the American community colleges.

Like the vice-chancellors, polytechnic directors look enviously at the colleges' spare capacity and are already "franchising" sub-degree courses with them. Mr Stoddart's real target, however, and that of his fellow directors, is the binary system that has condemned the polytechnics to funding inferior to that received by the universities throughout their existence. As Labour is committed to abolishing the distinction and the Conservatives are moving in the same direction, the polytechnics are securing victory.

Mr Stoddart says: "Surely it is now indefensible that the funds received by an institution to teach students on similar courses to a similar level should vary depending on an institutional title."

"The binary system has now outlived its usefulness and is likely to inhibit rather than assist future expansion. It should be replaced by a unified system where funding is channelled according to mission and performance."

For the moment, the polytechnics may have to be satisfied with the addition of degree-awarding powers, which are awaiting the approval of Kenneth Clarke, the new education secretary, and limited bonuses like those in the autumn statement. Most would be, however, that long before they reach their next milestone, they will be part of a single higher education system.



Business partners: Gladys Spedding, the deputy head, and pupils

Hi-tech school plc

A classroom business centre aims to make money teaching industry a thing or two

With £400,000 from local companies and the backing of Cumbria county council, a wing of Harraby comprehensive school, Carlisle, has been hired off to earn a living in private enterprise. Potted plants, pastel colours, soft lights and executive carpeting greet customers and children in the school's technology centre.

A language laboratory, information technology centre, food technology facility and conference rooms will serve both the 500 children at the school and local businesses grappling with the demands of the European market.

Gladys Spedding, the deputy head, says: "There was no chance of providing this quality of facility without sponsorship from industry. They need what we can now offer in their own training programmes."

The elegant new wing at Harraby offers training in computer skills on what is claimed to be the most advanced information technology installation in any state school in the country. A micro-electronic language laboratory allows a teacher to monitor the progress of students in five languages simultaneously.

The food technology centre has equipment purpose-designed to provide courses for students and those already working in the production and packaging of food. Two rooms have been turned into conference areas with audio-visual equipment and a high-tech "blackboard", which produces photocopies of what the teacher or lecturer has written.

"We recognised there would be a strong need for more comprehensive teaching facilities if we were to conform to the national curriculum," Mrs Spedding says. "It was equally clear that these could not be paid for from the public purse, so we drew up a

business plan and approached 55 companies to show them that this was a feasible commercial undertaking that could support itself."

Half the companies gave cash or equipment for the scheme and several have already signed to use the language, computer training or conference facilities for their own courses. There is also a study library for use by the school and local community.

Pupils in the school's fourth, fifth and sixth years will have first call on the centre. A manager and two full-time staff are working to integrate school and commercial timetables.

Mrs Spedding says: "This will make no difference to the grant we receive from the authorities, which will remain based on the number of pupils at the school. So far as I am aware, nobody has gone so far down the line towards making a school into a commercial concern. In the first year we are committed to covering our running costs, which means making a profit of at least £45,000."

She put the idea of a mutually beneficial scheme to local industry after attending a study course in Florida, where the need for children to receive sound technological training was impressed on her.

"The American children were clearly confident and competent when it came to operating computer systems," she says. "It was equally clear to me how far behind them children in England are lagging for lack of facilities that would train them for the 21st century."

"I was determined to do everything I could by trying to persuade industry to help. The most difficult step was getting the first £10,000. Other companies soon joined in. People like to be associated with a success."

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Intending applicants who wish to discuss these posts informally are invited to do so by contacting Professor S. Green, Department of Management, University College, Cork, Ireland. Tel: (+353-21) 276871, ext 2512.

Applications and further details of the posts may be obtained from the undersigned. Tel: (+353-21) 276871, ext 2364.

Latest date for receipt of completed applications is Friday 4 January 1991.

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Interviews are expected to take place in Uppingham from the third week of January 1991.

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Women who flower by degrees

More women are climbing the career ladder by obtaining degrees in business management, but they still find it difficult being masters in a man's world. Geraldine Bedell reports

Cathy Andrews has a message for all women who want to read for the increasingly popular management degree, the Master of Business Administration: "Don't leave it too late."

She was 32 when she finished her degree at the London Business School and found her age was already a disadvantage. She says: "Those employers who wanted MBAs - a lot thought it was irrelevant and just made people arrogant - wanted a certain kind of MBA, and specified somebody under 28, or with particular previous experience, as if the degree had not changed anything."

The management degree can offer a route into highly paid, traditionally male jobs, in previously forbidden areas, and can catapult a woman on to the fast track of senior management in anything from manufacturing to the health service.

That, at least, is the sales pitch. Women MBAs stress that courses are not always perfect, that you do not necessarily double your salary when you come out, that you may not even find getting a job easy. But it is hard to find anybody who regrets having done the course. Ann Parkinson originally trained as a teacher without getting a degree. She took a two-year part-time MBA, which she felt would add weight to her curriculum vitae. "It was important personally and for career advancement, given my teaching background," she says. "It is a useful way of learning a lot about different areas of business in a concentrated period. I realise that there are areas that I did not think I knew anything about, which I actually know quite a lot about, and skills I have that are transferable."

Women now make up 19 per cent of MBA graduates of British universities, business schools, and the schools themselves are mushrooming. There are 2,500 full-time, 2,700 part-time and 2,800 distance-learning places this year. Some, inevitably, rate far more highly than others. It is said that a year at Insead, the European business administration institute outside Paris, will provide enough contacts to last a lifetime.

The London Business School and Manchester University started British MBA courses more than 20 years ago. Other universities have gradually followed, and there are also courses at management colleges such as Cranfield, in Bedfordshire, Ashridge, in Hertfordshire, and at

polytechnics and at the Open University.

How much an MBA will earn after she graduates depends partly on where she did the degree, but more on what she was doing before and the new career she chooses. A newly qualified MBA would not expect to earn less than £30,000 a year, but MBAs with a few years' experience could be earning anything from £40,000 to £100,000.

Carol Dix, a writer, recently embarked on an investigation of what kind of women become MBAs. She interviewed 20 of them for a book and concluded they were "high energy people, with a low boredom threshold - the sort of women who in another age would have joined committees or done notable charity work."

A number had previously worked outside as social workers, teachers, in charities or local government, and have used the MBA to change direction.

One started life as a secretary, with A-levels but no degree, and had worked up to a junior managerial position in an American bank. She realised that, once she was up against Oxford and Cambridge graduates with MBAs, she was unlikely to go any further. So she took an MBA herself, became a headhunter and is now on a six-figure salary.

The woman who took an MBA in her late forties was definitely an exception. Most MBA students are in their late twenties. Ms Dix suggests that the belief that there is a right time to do the management degree might have something to do with the relatively small number of women enrolling on courses. But now that women have children into their early forties, this seems unlikely to be a real obstacle.

Social expectations are probably more important. To be accepted on an MBA course you have to take a maths aptitude test of about A-level standard, and women are often persuaded that they cannot cope with maths. Many women say they took the course only after realising that marriage and children were not necessarily on the cards. Women do not automatically assume, as men often do, that high-flying success can happily coexist with family life.

One woman expressed concern, jokingly, that she now earned so much money that she could not quite see where a man might fit in. There is sometimes a buried fear that too much success is unattractive. Perhaps MBA courses are not



Making the grade: "Men have to get used to working alongside and for women," says Cathy Andrews

sufficiently appealing to women.

Ms Andrews finished at the London Business School in 1986. "Things might be different now, but then women were ignored," she says. "Case studies were all about men. They were the role models. There was a feeling that you were there on their terms only. There was no discussion of female management methods, about seeing the whole person. You had to be interested in global strategy development only, not personal issues."

"It was a shame, because there were brilliant people in my year who had absolutely no common sense. And men have to get used to working alongside and for women."

There are signs that this may be changing or at least that there are good intentions. Laurence Hardy, the director of studies at Ashridge Management College, says men benefit from having women on MBA courses.

He says: "They learn so much about relationships, about a new style of caring, and about how important these issues really are to the working woman's life. The more dominating man may be surprised to see there are other ways of working."

Britain, it seems, is unlikely just yet to become like the United

States, where job advertisements often demand an MBA. The degree is undoubtedly becoming a better understood and more highly prized qualification, and increasing numbers of women are likely to want one, not least because women have tended to have more erratic careers than men, and to have started thinking about making money later.

Perhaps, eventually, Mr Hardy's view that senior management should reflect not only the workforce but also society will prevail, and many women MBAs will be running large corporations.

● A Chance for the Top, by Carol Dix. Bantam (£12.95 hardback, £7.99 paperback).

State schools tempt the private payers

Many parents, worried by inflation, are watching closely the changing structures of government education

Independent schools are fighting two battles: rising fees at a time of high interest rates and rising standards in state schools, which could cream off some of their recruits. Fee-paying schools now educate 7 per cent of the school population but come into their own in the sixth forms, in which they take 20 per cent of high-flyers preparing for university.

Fees are rising by about 10 per cent a year. Only 25 per cent of parents plan ahead for school fees. Fifty-seven per cent pay fees out of salary and about 23 per cent of pupils are helped with scholarships, bursaries and the government's assisted places scheme. Families with a gross income of less than £20,000 account for 20 per cent of independent pupils, £20,000 to £30,000 for 23 per cent and £30,000 to £40,000 for 21 per cent. In the present tough economic conditions, parents may be more prepared to give schools a chance if they consider standards are rising and that schools are offering the same sort of education in a good atmosphere.

Supporters of schools that have opted out of local authority control and are receiving their money directly from the education department claim that this is what is happening in grant-maintained schools.

One of the most enthusiastic supporters of opting-out is Graham Locke, headmaster of Audenshaw High School, Tameside, Greater Manchester, who says: "It is not just a question of money. You are actually responsible for the way the school is run."

This freedom of action will allow heads to run schools in such a way that they could in time provide real competition as they come to terms with the national curriculum and the now accepted need to raise standards. Even schools that decide not to opt out should be better able to take on the independents since the intro-

duction of local management of schools, which passes the day-to-day running to heads and governors.

Grant-maintained schools will still have the edge, with complete control over their budgets, while local authorities hold back money to pay for central services and administration. Financial inducements are also given to help schools to switch to grant-maintained status.

Opting out has certainly done no harm to recruiting at Audenshaw, where 180 new boys enrolled this September, instead of the scheduled 150, raising the school roll from 720 to 760. The government has no doubt that the growth of parent power and choice will improve state schools. Mr Locke says: "You go back to basics and ask, 'What are we here for?' We are here to provide good schools. That is what you start with. What is best for the children is the wider variety and the much better school atmosphere created by these reforms, so I yield not an inch when local authorities and some chief education officers tell me that grant-maintained schools are making it difficult for us."

The reforms might make life more difficult for the independent schools, which will have to look to their laurels if they are to stay part of the mainstream of education. Growing competition from the state system may have to be tackled alongside the return of a Labour government. David Woodhead, the director of the Independent Schools Information Service, cannot hide his misgivings. "Even if Labour grudgingly accepts the existence of independent schools," he says, "it would prefer they did not exist. Labour should accept that choice should be capable of being exercised in the non-state sector by as wide a cross-section of the community as possible."

DAVID TYTLER

'What is best for children is the wider variety'

EDUCATIONAL

UNIVERSITY APPOINTMENTS

Continued from previous page

UNIVERSITY OF OXFORD

TEMPORARY UNIVERSITY LECTURESHIP IN MEDIEVAL GERMAN

Applications are invited for the above post to be filled from 1 January 1991 or as soon as possible thereafter. The appointment is until 31 December 1991. Stipend according to age on the scale £12,086-£23,819 per annum.

Further particulars may be obtained from the Secretary, Board of the Faculty of Medieval and Modern Languages, 37 Wellington Square, Oxford OX1 2JF, to whom applications (seven typed copies, one from overseas candidates) should be sent to arrive by 30 November 1990. Candidates should ask two referees to write in confidence to the Secretary of the board by that date.

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Visiting Studentships

For good honours graduates of another university with research experience to undertake research in any field of study. Value £4,470 per annum plus travel allowance and fees. Deadline for 1-3 1991. Closing date: 1 February 1991.

ODA Shared Scholarships Scheme (ODASS)

Awards are also available for students from developing countries for postgraduate courses. (Covers travel, tuition, maintenance and a small stipend.) Closing date: 1 March 1991.

Riddell Hall Bursaries

Riddell Hall was originally a privately endowed women's hall of residence and has now been built within the University's main hall and residence. Under the terms of the endowment, bursaries are available for up to five students to undertake research in any field of study. The bursaries are available for a period of one year from 1 October 1991. Up to five bursaries are available annually to undergraduate and postgraduate students at the University, or prospective students, who are currently or previously studying in the United Kingdom, or who have been awarded a first class honours degree in any subject. The bursaries will be given to women candidates. Closing date: 10 April 1991.

Application forms and further particulars from: Academic Council Office, The Queen's University of Belfast, BELFAST, BT7 1NN

KING'S COLLEGE LONDON

READER IN MODERN LANGUAGES EDUCATION

Applications are invited for the newly established post of Reader in Modern Languages Education. Applicants should have substantial relevant research experience and be familiar with issues in teacher training in Modern Languages. The person appointed will be expected to stimulate and lead research and undertake at Master's and higher degree level, and to make some contribution to the teacher training programme.

Salary Scale £23,425 - £26,471 p.a. plus £1,767 London Allowance.

Applications (10 copies) should be submitted to Mr G.A. Culbert, Deputy Permanent Officer, King's College London, Strand, London WC2R 2LS. Tel 071 873 2063, from whom further particulars should first be obtained.

Closing date: 31st January 1991.

SIDNEY SUSSEX COLLEGE, CAMBRIDGE

Stanley Elmore Senior Research Fellowship in the Natural Sciences

The College Council invites applications from men and women for the above Fellowship, which will normally be held for a period of three years, for the furtherance of natural science research. The Fellowship will commence on or after 1 October 1991. Salary will be £16,765 per annum, with membership of the Governing Body and the usual Fellowship rights.

Particulars may be obtained from the Master, Sidney Sussex College, Cambridge CB2 3RU. Applications should reach the Master NOT LATER THAN 31 DECEMBER 1990.

EDUCATIONAL STUDENTSHIPS

Awards in Agricultural Economics

The Milk Marketing Board offers studentships to graduates of UK universities who wish to study for a further degree or diploma in Agricultural Economics or undertake research work in this subject. The awards for the academic year 1991/92 will be not less than £7,020 (from which fees are payable) and are tenable for one year only. Extension will be granted for a further period, only if the Committee approves the proposed research when considering the application. The awards are unconditional as regards subsequent careers.

Applicants may have graduated in any discipline, but preference will be given to those with degrees (First or Upper Second Class Honours or equivalent qualifications) in agriculture, economics, social sciences or business studies.

Further particulars and application forms can be obtained by writing to: The Secretary, Awards in Agricultural Economics, Milk Marketing Board, Thames Ditton, Surrey KT7 0EL, quoting reference ST. Applications must be returned to the Secretary not later than 31 January 1991.

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Law Report November 19 1990 Queen's Bench Division

Minister justified in allowing exports

Regina v Minister of Agriculture Fisheries and Food, Ex parte Roberts and Another
Regina v Same, Ex parte Royal Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals
Before Mr Justice Popplewell
[Judgment November 12]

The Minister for Agriculture Fisheries and Food had not misdirected himself in law or acted unreasonably in refusing to suspend the grant of licences for the export of live sheep to France following incidents in July during which French farmers attacked lorries destroying and injuring imported British sheep.

Mr Justice Popplewell held in the Queen's Bench Division in dismissing applications for judicial review of the minister's decision and in refusing to make declarations sought by Mr Peter Roberts and Compassion in World Farming, of which he was the director, and by the RSPCA.

Paragraph 3 of the Export of Animals (Protection) Order (SI 1981 No 1051) provides: "(2) The appropriate minister in granting or refusing to grant a licence shall have regard to all matters connected with the welfare of the animals intended for export and in particular the arrangements for transporting the animals to their final destination are such as to protect them from unnecessary suffering."

Mr Philip Engelman and Mr Paul Epstein for Mr Roberts; Mr David Lloyd Jones for the RSPCA; Mr Stephen Richards for the minister.

MR JUSTICE POPPLEWELL said that it was the minister's case that the two limbs of paragraph 3(2) were to be looked at separately; that so far as the first limb was concerned the minister did not have to have regard generally to the welfare of animals, and that included attacks by third parties, but that the second limb related to the nuts and bolts in relation to the facts of the instant case.

It seemed on first impression that the phrase "arrangements for transporting the animals" was wide enough of itself to embrace a situation where there might be some external element which affected the welfare of the animals during transport.

If that had been the only matter, his Lordship would have held that a third-party attack did come within the regulation. However, looking at the paragraph as a whole and the rest of the order it was clear that the order related to what was properly described as the nuts and bolts.

The order implemented in part Council Directive 77/489/EEC of September 8, 1977 (OJ 1977 No L 200 p10).

Section 67 provides: "(2) ... An industrial tribunal shall not consider a complaint under this section unless it is presented to the tribunal before the end of the period of three months beginning with the effective date of termination or within such further period as the tribunal considers reasonable in a case where it is satisfied that it was not reasonably practicable for the complaint to be presented before the end of the period of three months."

Mr Andrew Lydiate for the employees; Miss Rybak in person.

MR JUSTICE KNOX said the complaint was dismissed on June 2, 1989. The last day for presenting her complaint was September 1, and it was presented on September 2 one day out of time.

On August 23, 1989 she had consulted the CAB when she was told by a non-legal officer that her complaint had to be received by September 2. That advice was incorrect.

The officer subsequently telephoned the industrial tribunal and spoke to an employee who told him that the final date for presentation was September 2, a Saturday, and that the complaint need not be presented until the following Monday, September 4. That was also incorrect.

The industrial tribunal found that the complainant and the

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That Directive required that France should ensure that the international transport of animals within its territory was effected in accordance with the conditions laid down in the annex to the Directive.

The annex laid down in great detail the nuts and bolts relating to the international transport of animals. Thus the importing country was directed to concern itself with licences or other unforseeable circumstances but not the exporting country.

It was therefore abundantly clear that under the second limb the minister was concerned with the nuts and bolts while under the first limb he was concerned with the welfare of animals generally.

The applicants criticised the minister for not treating the situation more seriously than he did and for his reliance on the French authorities.

The British Government had made a number of representations to a responsible minister in a friendly government who was under an obligation under the Treaty of Rome. The minister could scarcely be criticised for observing that it was up to the French authorities to take steps to implement the Directive.

There was nothing to suggest that the minister thereby abandoned his responsibility. They were perfectly proper steps which the minister was entitled to take; he was entitled to wait

and see whether the steps were effective. To describe it as unreasonable to take into account the reaction of the French ministers was quite wrong.

The prime factor which the minister had to take into account was the scale and extent of the attacks. In the end it was a question of degree.

Given the number of licences issued, the number of lambs safely transported and all the matters disposed to about the attacks on those animals, his Lordship entirely agreed with the minister's view that the stage had not been reached where a total ban could properly be imposed.

His Lordship did not accept the submission that the minister had in any way misunderstood the law or misinterpreted article 36 of the Treaty of Rome in taking the view that he would have been in breach of Community law had he refused to issue further licences.

Even if the minister had taken a wrong view of Community law, so that he was not induced by it from imposing a total ban, the result would nevertheless have been the same as he clearly took the view that the situation was not such as to require him to impose a ban under UK law.

Solicitors: Mr Peter Stevenson, Greenwell Hempsons, Solicitors, MAFF.

engaged by the employee.

The question to be answered was whether the evidence before the industrial tribunal such that they were entitled to find that it was not reasonably practicable for the employee to have presented her complaint in time.

Although in *Riley's* case there was an implied disclaimer of the use of the question whether the adviser was "engaged" by the employee to give advice as a yardstick for deciding practicality, there was no authority in Lord Justice Stephenson's judgment for a broad principle that had advice from any third party prevented an employee from establishing that it was not reasonably practicable to present the complaint in time.

There was material on which the industrial tribunal could treat advice from an employee as being in a different category from advice from a solicitor or CAB adviser. There was a clear factual distinction between advice obtained from someone who was asked for advice and advice obtained by a claimant from an industrial tribunal employee.

That factual difference enabled the industrial tribunal to hold as a matter of fact that the applicant could have been induced by the industrial tribunal's error and that they had jurisdiction to hear her complaint. The appeal would be dismissed.

Solicitors: Herbert Smith.

Lucy's card game comes up trumps

Enterprising schoolgirls deal a winning hand in business awards. Hugh Thompson reports

Lucy McCabe has set her heart on reading theology at university. Meanwhile, she is trying to find a buyer for her musical card game, which was inspired by watching her father trying to learn to play the organ. Her solutions to the difficulties of learning music have won her the national and European titles in this year's Young Enterprise awards.

Lucy won the title in competition with 2,000 other business ideas involving 28,000 schoolchildren. The scheme, sponsored by companies such as British Gas, Midland Bank, and Shell, and started 26 years ago to give children an understanding of industry and commerce, challenges groups of pupils to set up businesses. The groups pay an economic rent for premises, even if they are in the pupils' own school, design the product they wish to sell, check quality, market the goods and make a profit.

Like all the contestants, Lucy and her group at Pates grammar school, Cheltenham, Gloucestershire, made their decisions with the help of a professional business adviser provided under the scheme.

Lucy and her fellow sixth-form directors developed the card game they have called Crescendo to help beginners to learn to recognise

musical notes. The 52 cards each represent a note. The seven games go from a simple form of rummy called Tutti through Happy Families to playing the notes or clapping its rhythm as the card is dealt. The games are all intended to form a bridge between the theory and practice of learning music. The company subcontracted the printing and in its first year sold 200 packs. A new print of 500 is already selling well. So far Crescendo, at £5.99 a game, has taken more than £4,000. Once the girls leave the school, the company will have to be closed.

Katherine Vick, one of the group, says: "We were friends who wanted to do something out of school together. Starting up a business was something different, challenging."

Lucy and her team tried out a prototype on first-formers, but they found it too complicated, so they simplified the game. "We are hoping to sell the copyright before we leave school and Waddington's has already shown an interest," she says.

David Barnes, the headmaster at Pates, explains that the Young Enterprise scheme fitted in well with the school's economic awareness programme and it had made many contacts with companies both locally and in Europe. "Young Enterprise seemed an



Winners (from left): Chibya Patel, Clare Swales, Katherine Vick, Katherine Sandoe and Lucy McCabe

ideal way of us advancing our contacts," says Peter Davis, the school's head of careers. "Since every project has its own adviser as well, it was a great way of developing teamwork and confidence."

Crescendo's commercial adviser, Bev Draper, of Gloster Photographic Services, remembers: "As a group they did not stand any mucking around. There was a very high level of commitment. If I said, 'Be there at 8.30 on Sunday morning', they were there. It was important that I stood back and let them make mistakes. What they had was a real desire to get to the finished product. They

believed in it and they were right." Joining the scheme is not easy, Chibya Patel, in charge of production, found it very time-consuming. "We had to do a lot of designs. If we had known how much time was involved, I am not sure whether we would have done it. After a while you do not worry about contacting people you do not know. It does give you confidence."

Katherine Sandoe, Crescendo's personnel manager, adds: "In the end there is the sense of achievement. You get an idea how the business world works." Girls dominate the scheme, providing 60 per cent of the

participants and 70 per cent of the managing directors. Hilary Copen, of Young Enterprise, points out: "Quite often in mixed schools the boys initially take the plum jobs. However, after a few months of hard work it is the girls who are contributing the most and who take over the central roles."

A boy was appointed as the accountant for Crescendo but he soon lost the job. "We had to sack him as he was just no good," Lucy says. "It was not a sexist thing. People always try to make that point. If he had been any good we would have wanted him to stay."

Young Enterprise, Ewart Place, Summertown, Oxford OX2 7BZ.

Do not write off dyslexic children

More money must be spent on helping pupils with reading problems

language, are called dyslexic. Failure to learn to read, write and spell is due to a difficulty in learning these skills and inappropriate teaching. Defining a child as dyslexic does not mean you should give up, only that the teaching is likely to be more difficult.

Most children with difficulty in learning to read and spell have problems with processing and remembering sounds, and problems with language. Children who have difficulty detecting rhyme and alliteration before they learn to read are more likely to have

difficulty. If children are trained to understand how sounds work, their later reading ability improves and this improvement can be detected years later.

Research has also shown that children who know nursery rhymes at four are more likely to make good readers. Work in Scandinavia has shown that ability to divide words into syllables is also significant.

There are many children with a history of delayed speech who languish in remedial classes. They often have poor comprehension and vocabulary, although they

may be excellent at activities not requiring language. These children can be treated if they are recognised. Often they are written off as "thick" and are therefore abandoned. A few children fail because they have poor visual memory. In English there are too many irregular words for teachers to be able to rely on building words from letter sounds.

No British government has had a universal literacy policy or given money specifically for literacy. Grants of about £220 million to education authorities this year offer money for virtually every-

thing — except reading and writing. There are grants for in-service training in nearly everything — except reading and writing.

Government policy has forced teacher training colleges to reduce the time spent on teaching teachers to teach reading. Teachers follow false fashions not because they are perverse or have been captured by the education establishment but because they do not know enough to sort good theories from bad.

We need skilled teachers in our schools who can discover early the individual reasons why some children find it difficult to acquire literacy and can then use the methods that suit them.

MICHAEL STERNE
The author is the executive director of the British Dyslexia Association.

Longer day for schools?

ONE of the less surprising reforms suggested by Sir Cyril Taylor in his education paper for the Centre of Policy Studies was that there should be a rapid growth in the number of city technology colleges.

Sir Cyril is the chairman of the City Technology College Trust. His other suggestions include the return of grammar schools, more freedom for grant-maintained schools, written tests for all pupils and a longer school week.

Sir Cyril, writing in a personal capacity, said that where a majority of parents voted in favour, a school that had opted out of local government control should be allowed to become a grammar school, a city technology school or a "magnet" school that specialises in a particular subject.

Voluntary-aided city technology colleges should be set up, using redundant school buildings provided free by local authorities, and government and industry should share the £1 million cost of re-equipping and refurbishing every school.

Many teachers claimed they were asked to cram too much into the school working week of about 25 hours, but Sir Cyril said the new city technology colleges were already working longer hours and all schools should provide a minimum 30 hours' teaching a week.

Pay on results

JOHN ATKINS is the first head teacher to agree to accept performance-related pay. Mr Atkins, the head of Kennal Manor school, Bromley, south London, will receive an extra £2,000 on his £30,000 salary if he shows that he has met the targets set down by his governors covering curriculum and learning experience, staffing, appraisal and staff development, pupil support, activities outside school and resource management.

Upper lip service

FOURTEEN Soviet businessmen are on a three-week management course at the Manchester Business School to learn about the world economy, finance, international marketing, asset management and manufacturing strategy. The men, from Moscow's higher commercial management school, will also visit local companies to develop Anglo-

Soviet business links and will learn about the British stiff upper lip on a weekend adventure course.

Frontline visit

STUNG by recent criticisms of teacher training as irrelevant and too theoretical, the Universities Council for the Education of Teachers has invited Kenneth Clarke, the education secretary, to see for himself. Representatives of the 31 university education departments, meeting at Oxford last week, sent a message to Mr Clarke saying they wanted him to talk to their students, see them at work in classrooms and to meet the teachers who help with training. The council said: "The teacher trainers decided that direct observation of their work is the best way of demonstrating that the wholly misleading accounts of teacher training being put about by some ill-informed critics are an entire misrepresentation."

Hair today



LONG hair for men is coming back, says Ken Fairburn, who has cut students' hair at York for seven years. He told the university magazine: "Young hairdressers who can do only the half-inch hairstyles will be stuck. It is no good just trimming around the edge of long hair. You have to cut it properly. I remember the good old days in the Sixties."

Fund of ideas

SCHOOLS should be more enterprising in raising funds, says Roger Opie, of the Industrial Society. He told a London conference last week that schools should consider schemes such as making classrooms and computer equipment available for company training programmes, opening school car parks for weekend shoppers and giving language lessons to local businesses.

DAVID TYTLER

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CONTINUED ON NEXT PAGE



Prudential Award for the Arts
The Grizedale Society
Grizedale Forest Sculpture

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Eileen's little treasures



When typist Eileen Crawford (left) died this year, her flat yielded a unique bequest.
Joan Simpson reports

In her diary entry for April 6, 1968, Eileen Crawford, an Edinburgh typist, then aged 54, living quietly with her father in a council flat, wrote a stern note to herself: "Memo: Stop buying Crystal beads now!" This was a resolution she would not keep, and gives a clue to the obsession which drove her to acquire an important 20th century collection of ornamental ephemera, now treasured by the National Museums of Scotland as its most unusual bequest.

The diary entry is an unusually personal note in the meticulous records kept by Miss Crawford during more than 40 years of collecting the kind of jewellery that Woolworth's once sold. Hers was an ordinary life, with an extraordinary postscript. After her death earlier this year, Miss Crawford's tiny council flat in Edinburgh yielded up an astonishing trove of costume jewellery and bric-a-brac which serves as a unique record of popular post-war taste. This week an exhibition opens at the Royal Museum of Scotland in Edinburgh to mark the bequest.

The very private Miss Crawford spent more than half her life quietly building up her collection. Hundreds of strings of brightly coloured plastic beads, glittering paste brooches, earrings, pendants, collections of butterfly pins and fanshaped clips were among thousands of items painstakingly displayed in every available space in her flat, carefully sorted according to type.

Dr Elizabeth Goring, the curator of the modern jewellery collection at the NMS, is thrilled by the acquisition. "Miss Crawford was a true collector, not a magpie just acquiring junk. She gathered things that curators working on 20th century material have meant to acquire but, because they are so obvious and familiar, have not got round to."

From her diaries it is known that for at least 20 years Miss

Crawford bought something every day, probably in her lunch hour or on her way home from her job with the local authority. Her office was close to the trunk and second-hand shops of Edinburgh's Grassmarket, but she also regularly walked the half mile or so to Woolworth's on Lothian Road, or down the Bridges to Patrick Thomson's, or along Princes Street to Sainsbury's.

In the evening, perhaps after she had seen to her elderly father (who died in 1972), she would enter up her day's purchases in tiny, neat handwriting in a pocket diary, meticulously recording every penny she had spent. Two days after Christmas in 1966, for instance, she recorded:

From Porto, [Portobello] dealer: Engraved glass vase = 2/6 Small silver clothes brush = 2/6 Small silver brooch = 2/6 M.O.P. Zodiac Pendant = 3/6 Small Enam. Silver brooch = 2/6 Imit. opal (?) & brilliants = 1/-

She wrote many footnotes, giving her own assessment of value, noting to herself: "This was really 9d too much so won't make any further purchases here!"

On November 28, 1968, she "resolved to call a halt to usual heavy expenditure on jewellery and all bric-a-brac", but two days later she was back buying again. "From W's [Woolworth's] Lothian Road: Xmas twin birds novelty = 2/3, and by the end of the week she had spent another £2 5s 3d on glass stud earrings, a cameo brooch, a coral and green glass necklace, a necklace of 12 metal ivy leaves, and a china scallop-shell trinket dish."

The annotations prove Miss Crawford had no illusions that she was buying priceless antiques; it appears she was collecting purely for her own pleasure, so it was fortunate that in her will she was inspired to leave to the NMS "the first choice of any articles of antique or artistic interest."

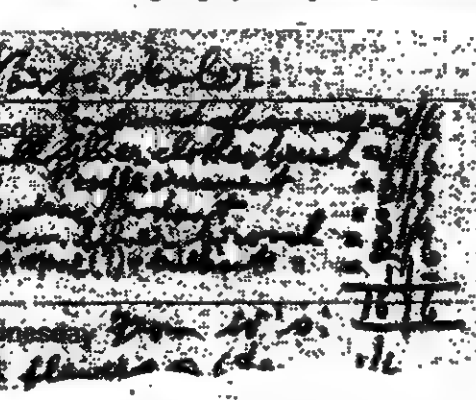


Modern's better-known curator Dr Elizabeth Goring displays a tiny sample of the Crawford collection

Dr Goring recalls her first sight of the crammed flat, where even the fridge was full of ornaments. "My first impression was of incredible clutter. But the more I looked, it resolved itself into a perfectly logical arrangement."

"Miss Crawford had displayed things in a way that spoke clearly of her taste and personality. She used objects in unusual ways, hanging pendant earrings from the spines of books, pinning a butterfly brooch to an artificial flower attached to a shell picture frame."

Visitors to the exhibition will see a selection of the items arranged in a similar way, although most of the collection was packed away in chocolate boxes, tins, sponge bags and other containers, carefully sorted according to type, colour or material. A



Dear diary: part of Miss Crawford's careful record-keeping

sponge bag would contain 20 or 30 strings of orange plastic beads, all interleaved with tissue paper, or a collection of bird brooches made of anything from coloured glass to horn.

"In the chest of drawers we would find a neat pile of clothes to find a layer of necklaces underneath," Dr Goring says. "It took several days to clear the whole collection from the flat."

And it will take years, she believes, to identify and catalogue all the pieces, because Miss Crawford

On the scent of truth at any price

Will discounted fine fragrances satisfy the customer in the season of prestige smellies?

Christmas is the most significant season for sales in Britain's £600 million-a-year fragrance market, so customers ought to be storming the doors of all 40 branches of What Everybody Wants, which has recently started to offer discounts on Dior's Poison - a £51 bottle for £34 - and other lines such as Opium, Giorgio and Chanel No 5.

Up to now retailers have adhered pretty strictly to the manufacturers' recommended retail price. Philip Green of Amber Day, the fashion retailing company which owns What Everybody Wants, says he is receiving his supplies from "foreign sources". Foreign wholesalers buy stock at favourable export prices, instead of sending it on to the destinations for which it was intended -

smelling before they buy is not often possible, because once the cellophane wrapper is disturbed, the scent's potential as a gift is ruined.

Jim Stephen, a co-owner of The Perfume Shop in Aberdeen, is aiming for a turnover of £1 million after his first year selling some 700 lines of discounted top brands. "Initially our customers were suspicious, but we proved that if you charge less for quality perfumes you can sell more." He refuses to name his suppliers, but insists they are "entirely legal", and he has had samples of each product authenticated.

At Parfums Christian Dior, the management declined to comment on a situation that contravenes its retailing policy but appears to be beyond its control.

The problem of diversion and discounting is very difficult for manufacturers to control

Mr Green says inspection of the scent bottles, which should be specially custom-moulded, and their contents, which he has had "finger-printed" by a chemist, have established that he has the genuine article. He seems to have found himself a golden goose, but might have misjudged a public confused over what is or is not a fake perfume. Selling the real thing cheap is the only variation on cut-price designer fragrance which has not yet been tried on the bargain-seeking sector of this market.

First came the counterfeiters offering a replica box of a fine fragrance at a ridiculously low price. Those who bought discovered only on opening the package at home that it bore not even a whiff of a relationship to the real thing.

New laws and prosecutions by the manufacturers are discouraging the counterfeiters, but there is nothing illegal about the activities of the small-alike purveyors - chemists who play on the fact that anyone can copy a fragrance formula.

But copycat fragrances - usually in a plain bottle with a plain name, such as No 49 - that are faithful to a best-selling formula are rare. The characteristic top notes are only one element of a fine fragrance; what give the enduring classics their charm are the underlying and much more subtle notes. With small-alikes, what smells great on first application may not live up to its promise as it dries.

Those who have bought counterfeiters in the past may well want confirmation that Mr Green's products are genuine, but

facturers he is not beholden to their policies.

Kerry Sparkes, a spokesman for Chanel, points out that it is not merely resale price that concerns her company, but the image of the outlets where it is resold: "Chanel is supplied by us only to stores that we have personally vetted and approved."

Jacqueline Cohen, a vice-president of Giorgio Beverly Hills, which has been vigorous in prosecuting counterfeiters, reports from the company's Los Angeles base that "the problem of diversion and fragrance discounting is worldwide now, especially for brands such as Giorgio which are enormous successes."

"The problem is very difficult for manufacturers to control. We do not sell to these discounters, nor do we verify that the products they are selling are authentic, and we are working hard to warn the customer about counterfeit and unauthorized products." These "warnings" take the form of newspaper advertisements at peak selling times such as Mother's Day, she says.

At the end of the first week's trading in discounted fragrances, John Ferguson, the operations controller of What Everybody Wants, reported "sales beyond the bounds of all expectations. We have made testers available, and customers seem to have no doubts about what we are offering."

ANTHEA GERRIE

The age of discrimination

Ageism is alive but may be unwell after the launch of a new alliance

NEARING 50, managing director Philip Walker was put on the spot when his printing firm folded. Six years later he recalls that, at first, he was totally confident that he could walk into another job. But after several hundred unsuccessful applications, he at-

tempted suicide. "Later, when I wrote about my problem in a recruitment newspaper and got hundreds of letters from people in the same boat, I realised there was large-scale discrimination against over-forties being practised by Britain's employers."

"Those letters were only the tip of an iceberg. But they revealed the plight of many highly experienced and well-qualified middle-aged people who told of the stress of unemployment, leading to breakdowns, divorce and even suicide."

Mr Walker's experience led him to form the Campaign Against Age Discrimination in Employment (CAADE), of which he is chairman. On Wednesday, at the House of Commons, CAADE and 11 other organisations, including Age Concern and the Institute of Personnel Management, will launch an Alliance Against Ageism campaign.

MPs from the main parties will be present, including the Labour peer Baroness Phillips, the Alliance's patron who is preparing a private member's bill to outlaw age discrimination in employment.

The first aim of the campaign is to have age limits that are often imposed in recruiting (such as "25-30", "not over 40") made illegal, as they are in the United States and some European countries. That will not change anything overnight, Mr Walker admits.

"What we will have to do then is change attitudes. We must convince employers that this sort of discrimination is counter-productive."

Mr Walker believes some 2.5 million people in Britain are affected. Employers may fear that over-forties are not as quick to learn. Conversely, some executives may feel threatened by hiring mature candidates who have previously held senior posts.

He says there is no evidence that over-forties cannot pick up new information, including

computer skills, as quickly as younger people. "Our own research indicates that mature workers are reliable at turning up, do not change jobs, and are perhaps not as promotion-hungry as someone ten or 20 years younger."

The classic case of middle-aged unemployment is to be made redundant at 40-plus with what at first seems a satisfactory redundancy payment, Mr Walker says. "Perhaps for 12 months or so they do not do anything - then they realise the money isn't going to last forever. So they start - and continue, increasingly frantically - applying for jobs. That's when they realise they are in trouble and begin to panic."

A sensible reaction is to sit back, take stock, decide on the objective, then work on the best way of achieving it, if necessary with specialist advice. "Not all cases are successful, but I recall a woman solicitor made redundant, who feared she was out of a job for good. We put her in touch with a firm who helped her set up a franchise business in legal advice. She is now on the point of employing staff."

As the population ages in the Nineties, Mr Walker believes the outlook will improve. "The 45-plus generation is becoming a sizeable majority with not only an increasing share of overall spending power, but political clout."

Mr Walker believes that compulsory retirement is wrong, and earlier retirement for women doubly so. The Court of Appeal has just awarded 12 female Barclays Bank employees a total of £160,000 compensation for being forced to retire at 60. "I would suggest a flexible retirement age from, say, 55 to 70-plus," Mr Walker says. "People should have a choice of retirement age, spread over ten or 15 years, and prepare for it gradually by cutting down the hours they work."

BERNARD SILK

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Snarled schemes of squalour

THEATRE

The Clink Riverside Studios

THE old woman's grasp on power is slipping. The succession uncertain, plotters scheme to ensure their political survival. Wry reflections on being a woman working with men — if they are stupid she walks all over them, if clever they fight one another — are greeted with knowing laughter from the audience.

Recent events have added point to this satirical depiction of the dying fall of Elizabeth I's reign in a way that playwright Stephen Jeffreys could hardly have hoped for when the work was premiered at Plymouth in September. In fact, parallels seem fortuitous rather than calculated. With a concise adaptation of the teeming panorama of *Hard Times* to his credit, and two awards for *Valued Friends*, a sharply perceptive look at the psychology of materialism, the author has tried to combine historical sweep and abrasive comment, and the result is a sprawling model.

The little man unwittingly caught up in power politics is one Lucius Bodkin, a stand-up comic with a social conscience, who prefers angry rap about squalid corruption to the anecdote of the Spaniard who showed his three-foot foot to a doxie. Hired for a gig, this embryonic Ben Elton is set-up to be implicated in none too convincing a "Jeffreys" ruse, shackle plotting — in the murder of the Queen's adviser by a political rival.

Much of the action centres on the clink in Southwark, that area beyond the City's legal reach,

packed with brothels, playhouses, bear pits and other sources of squalid indulgence.

The fantasy is firmly grounded on a feeling for the period. Apart from a blank verse prologue, the language swings freely between modern idioms and authentic Elizabethan. The aim seems to be the recreation of a city comedy; but the play's messy constructions makes the average Ben Jonson play look as economical as a baikon.

The narrative thread is knotted and snarled with too many ideas and Machiavel's daughter, who wants a rump-roaring liberation, murders an innocent faunt and ends up a beggar; her black maid, who exacts revenge after an ecological stint in a cave in Wales (not Cymbeline's Milford Haven by any chance?); the bishop who ends up in his own prison; European markets and foreign conspiracies. Towards the end of three hours the thread is totally lost and the playwright simply ticks one episode on to another to drive his points home.

What then is uncertain. That ordinary people are pawns in power games, perhaps; that the mob has had a raw deal throughout history; that even golden ages were characterised by inhuman cruelty; that absolute monarchs can be succeeded by tyrannical bureaucrats.

Nothing original here, nor in the suggestion that the masses welcome servitude under the devil they know when nobody has to ask who is in charge... but this is where we came in.

In Sally Jacob's design, the jagged wooden stage is contained in a backdrop that completes the outline of England. Shleagh Fraser's Queen Elizabeth broods, basilisk-like, an enameled Byzantine icon, over the action. Mark Lockyer as the hapless Lucius is superb in both anger and comic patter, and Liz Kettle brings a Meryl Streep-like presence to the ambivalent girl, though the author has yet to make up his mind whether she is oppressor or vic-



Mark Lockyer as Bodkin and Shleagh Fraser as Elizabeth I

tim. Anna Furse directs the production by Paines Plough, a company whose enthusiasm for new writing might be profitably tempered with the use of a blue pencil.

MARTIN HOYLE

DANCE

The Four Elements Apollo, Oxford

LANDSCAPES or cloudscapes, with birds but also tarts, a blue-green jug or bowl, a strangely shaped crown, a red box, some playing cards and a skeleton: these are the ingredients binding together the four square backdrops painted by Jennifer Barden for Rambert Dance Company's new work, *Four Elements*.

Even without them, the choreography by Lucinda Childs and music by Gavin Bryars would set up their own abstract drama. Both know how to get the maximum out of minimalism. In the score, it is the percussion and keyboard instruments that keep a quick rhythm going, while the wind adds a slower, darker level.

Childs has a great gift for cunning variety in what looks at first like simple repetition. In the third section, *Air*, for four men, she sets up a pattern of skip, hop, jump across the stage, subverts it by timing or the numbers involved, then has a dancer veer away into a different trajectory and variants on the steps. For four

women, plays similar tricks with turning movements or small jumps while the paired dancers pass through each other's space.

If British audiences have ever seen Childs's own company, they would recognise this as a development of her usual style, but the opening and closing sections for the whole cast, introduce other qualities: slow adjustments of posture or grouping, an individual use of partnering, even a kind of ritual involving the skeleton.

The costumes pick up motifs from the backdrops (including dominoes, which appeared in earlier versions on show at the Kneidler Gallery). The presence among them of one dancer dressed as a skeleton, who poses at the end, and the fall of the pack of cards like snow just before the curtain add a specific theatrical touch, but the contrasts within both movement and sound are already dramatic.

There is no overt characterisation, however, and the dancers have to perform without imposing any interpretation. They do this excellently and the Mercury Ensemble under Roger Heaton does full justice to the music. The work was created thanks to last year's Prudential Award for the Arts.

JOHN PERCIVAL

OPERA

Meisofele Queen Elizabeth Hall

ARRIGO Boito is best known as the man who provided the libretto for Verdi's *Otello* and *Falstaff*. As a composer himself, his work has elicited a mixed response. Verdi, for one, spoke disparagingly of his compositional abilities, while Ernest Newman was positively scathing about his "squalid musical gift that rarely rises above the mediocre". Gustav Kobbé, on the other hand, who also knew an opera or two, made the assertion that Boito's work *Meisofele* was "one of the most beautiful scores

that has ever come out of Italy". By the end of the magnificent concert performance of *Meisofele* by the Chelsea Opera Group under Andrew Greenwood, there was little doubt that it was Kobbé who got it right. There are, in fact, extended parts of the first couple of acts where the level of inspiration dips. But the third and fourth acts and epilogue are another matter entirely. What is most remarkable here is Boito's ability to capture a mood with music of telling potency and utter individuality, owing little to Verdi, and even less to Wagner, with whom his name is sometimes linked.

In their duet "Lontano, lontano" for example, in which Faust and Margherita indulge in a dream

CONCERT

Israel PO/Mehta Barbican Hall

SECURITY stopped only just short of a body search for the audience who went to hear the Israel Philharmonic Orchestra in the first of its five concerts, which are the kernel of the Barbican's "Israel: State of the Art" festival and exhibition. The orchestra is now such a flagship institution for its home country that it has become more of an "art of the state" in disseminating the Jewish musical heritage.

"We would not like to begin our festival without remembering our orchestra's godfather," Zubin Mehta announced when he reached the podium. "So here's to you, Lenny," he added, as he urged the orchestra into an ebullient overture to Bernstein's *Candide*, for an unscheduled opener. After that it was down to more serious matters, with Mischa Maisky playing the cello solo in Bloch's "Hebrew Rhapsody", *Schelomo*.

Ostensibly a portrait of King Solomon in terms of the Jewish soul, "the complex, glowing, agitated soul that I feel vibrating

throughout the Bible", as the composer put it, the performance became a kind of exultant reflection of staccato spirit and feeling. Maisky's weight of vibrato generated an almost willing tone that gave the rhapsody the character of a searching plaint woven into the context of the orchestra's more pictorial detail.

So to Mahler's Fifth Symphony and its longer-drawn progress from initial tragedy to ultimate triumph. Mehta drove it hard, as his is wont, as well as showing yet again his proclivity for emphasising all that is most obvious in the music anyway, while obtruding his presence to an extent that constantly drew attention away from Mahler and on to himself, worst of all in the haunting Adagio.

The orchestra took everything very much in its stride, with warmth of string playing and some marvellously disciplined brass contributions, the horns included. The woodwind sounded curiously insignificant, though, as if not enough attention had been paid to balance and phrasing in the department, and the inward searching spirit of Mahler's pilgrimage never bloomed as it should.

NOEL GOODWIN

at the celestial host as they burst into seraphic song from the choral ranks behind him. Christine Bunning, Hilary Summers and Paul Badley completed a fine cast. Andrew Greenwood's stylish and vividly theatrical conducting brought the concert performance to pulsating life.

The Chelsea Opera Group Orchestra and Chorus, joined by a well-trained group of singers from the Lady Eleanor Holles Junior School Choir, played and sang with all the dedication and commitment that have sustained the organisation over the 40 years of its existence. This was another memorable evening from the indispensable COG.

BARRY MILLINGTON

NEW RELEASES

CRIMINAL LAW (1987) Mysterious thriller about a serial killer who kills in the name of a medieval religious order. Performances (Gary Oldman, Kevin Spacey, but the worst comes last in a fight. Director, Jonathan Demme. (1987) 1359 5599. Homevision (1987) 1359 5599.

BARBAMAS (1987) Last of a series of three films about a disaffected young man seeking revenge on his family. Director, Barry Barclay. (1987) 1359 5599. Homevision (1987) 1359 5599.

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THE REFLECTING SKIN (1987) A film about a man who is burned and then lives in a world of pain. Director, Philip Ridley. (1987) 1359 5599. Homevision (1987) 1359 5599.

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CINEMA GUIDE

Glenn Brown's assessment of films in London and where indicated with the symbol (A) on release across the country.

with chaotic atmospheres, lacking any dramatic coherence. Director, Joel Coen. (1987) 1359 5599. Homevision (1987) 1359 5599.

THE FRESHMAN (1987) Quirky uneven spoof of The Godfather, with Martin Scorsese as the main villain. (1987) 1359 5599. Homevision (1987) 1359 5599.

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Canzone: Tottenham Court Road (071-230 0831).
A MAN ESCAPED (1987) Mysterious thriller about a serial killer who kills in the name of a medieval religious order. Performances (Gary Oldman, Kevin Spacey, but the worst comes last in a fight. Director, Jonathan Demme. (1987) 1359 5599. Homevision (1987) 1359 5599.

MY BLUE HEAVEN (1987) Steve Martin as an incorrigible criminal placed under the wing of a self-proclaimed FBI agent. Director, Richard Linklater. (1987) 1359 5599. Homevision (1987) 1359 5599.

MY BETTER BLUES (1987) Spike Lee's tale of a self-proclaimed New York jazz player. Director, Spike Lee. (1987) 1359 5599. Homevision (1987) 1359 5599.

THE MUSIC TEACHER (1987) Belgian tale of a school teacher who falls in love with a student. Director, Luc Besson. (1987) 1359 5599. Homevision (1987) 1359 5599.

NOTA (1987) Grandiose, empty thriller about a French woman who is kidnapped and held captive. Director, Luc Besson. (1987) 1359 5599. Homevision (1987) 1359 5599.

PRESUMED INNOCENT (1987) Alan J. Pakula's thriller about a man who is kidnapped and held captive. Director, Alan J. Pakula. (1987) 1359 5599. Homevision (1987) 1359 5599.

SHOCK TO THE SYSTEM (1987) Winston Blackmore's thriller about a man who is kidnapped and held captive. Director, Winston Blackmore. (1987) 1359 5599. Homevision (1987) 1359 5599.

TOTAL RECALL (1987) Inexpensive sci-fi thriller about a man who is kidnapped and held captive. Director, Andrew Davis. (1987) 1359 5599. Homevision (1987) 1359 5599.

WILD AT HEART (1987) David Lynch's tale of a man who is kidnapped and held captive. Director, David Lynch. (1987) 1359 5599. Homevision (1987) 1359 5599.

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BRIEFING

ROCK

Time and time again

RONALD Harwood's recent West End play, *Another Time*, will have an unusual American debut next year when it is chosen to open the Steppenwolf Company of Chicago's new \$8 million (£4.1 million) theatre on April 14. Plans were for the play to start a North American tour in Toronto before Broadway. Instead, its British star, Albert Finney, will appear alongside members of the Steppenwolf ensemble in Chicago, with a New York run yet to be determined. Finney is no stranger to Steppenwolf's uniquely visceral, high-energy style; not only is he on the theatre's advisory board, but in 1986 he won London's top theatre awards as the sole Briton in the company's production of Lyle Kessler's *Orphans*.

Not a water shrew

THE Stuttgart Ballet has had to drop John Cranko's comedy, *The Turning of the Shrew*, from its visit to the Theatre Royal, Glasgow next month, because the scenery has been damaged by water. English National Ballet, which has announced a new production of that work later this season, may be relieved at the disappearance of competition, but not so much so at Stuttgart's choice of a replacement — *Olegin* — which is also in ENB's repertoire. Marcia Haydée will dance the female lead in Glasgow on December 4.

Happy coterie

ON FRIDAY, the sixtieth birthday of Toru Takemitsu, Japan's leading composer, will be celebrated at the Queen Elizabeth Hall with a special tribute from the London Sinfonietta. Two of Takemitsu's commissions for the London Sinfonietta — *Rain Coming and Tree Line* — will be heard alongside works by Varèse, Messiaen and Boulez. Among those performing will be Julian Bream, an old friend of the composer's, and the talented young conductor Kent Nagano, who makes his debut with the Sinfonietta at this concert.



Takemitsu: birthday concert

Last chance

BETWEEN creating their large photo-pieces, Gilbert and George have always had a passion for ordinary — or preferably rather kitsch — postcards. The examples in this latest show at the Anthony d'Offay Gallery (071-499 4100) are huge and vibrant. Many of the cards have a faintly eastern air, with the Taj Mahal jostling the Houses of Parliament, and pin-ups of Indian pop idols rubbing shoulders with Tom Cruise and Jason Donovan. Altogether, this riot of colour should not be missed. It ends tomorrow.

Maintaining their grip

Punk was going to transform the rock music business, but where are the erstwhile rebels now? Jean-Jacques Burnel of the Stranglers, only survivors from the class of '76, compares campaign notes and scars with David Sinclair

Of all the rock 'n' roll movements, the punk campaign of 1976-1977 now seems to have been the most futile. Originally a hostile reaction to the complacency that had overtaken the music business by the mid-Seventies, punk was the rallying point for a new breed of angry young men and women, impatient for change. Their mission was to reaffirm the rebellious primitivism that informed the true spirit of rock 'n' roll. Musical ability was frowned upon; attitude, commitment and above all energy were what counted. As well as mounting an anti-establishment broadside, their wrath was also targeted on the remote, multi-million-selling rock acts that bedroiled the American stadium circuit like dinosaurs from another age: artists such as Queen, Fleetwood Mac, the Rolling Stones, Led Zeppelin and Paul McCartney, who had lost their street credibility.

Led by the Sex Pistols and the Clash, the spiky-haired fundamentalists strode into the breach. Revolutionary gestures included spitting, sweating, defacing pictures of the Queen and refusing to go on *Top of the Pops*. Much of it was obvious hoopla, about as meaningful as wearing flowers in their hair had been for a previous generation, but nobody could deny the extraordinary mood of excitement and adventure that was abroad as a new galaxy of groups such as Siouxsie and the Banshees, the Jam, the Damned and the Adverts exploded into being.

The Stranglers had already been going for a while by then. "We got started during the latter part of the pub-rock era, supporting acts like Brinsley Schwarz and Ducks Deluxe," recalls bass player Jean-Jacques Burnel. "We were just an R'n'B band, but we couldn't play very well. So our songs tended to be very short, and quite honestly most of the audiences on that circuit seemed to hate us."

For the Stranglers, the onset of punk was a godsend. Here was an audience that welcomed their abrupt, aggressive music and positively encouraged the group's anti-social behaviour. The Stranglers may have been a bit older and more musically accomplished than their peers, but in many ways the band was more punk than punk itself. They broke through in 1977 with their debut album, *Stranglers IV (Rattus Norvegicus)*, and second single, "Peaches", which, owing to the sleazy voyeurism and casual sexism of the lyrics, they were not permitted to perform on *Top of the Pops*.

"I think most of punk was a pose," says Burnel. "But we weren't posing. The others talked about it, but we did it. We sought out violence. For a time our only

criterion for being the best band in London was to be the toughest band in London. If there was a punch-up, we would have started it. If someone spat at me I would go into the audience and haul the culprit on stage and give him a good caning. We were trying to prove that we were tough, which in retrospect doesn't prove anything. But we got physical respect if not musical respect."

Burnel at 38 remains in lean physical shape, as befits a man who is a black belt and teacher of karate. He seems perfectly friendly on the surface, but there is a faintly disturbing undercurrent to his demeanour that leads credence to some pretty wild stories about the group. The Stranglers were arrested after a riot at a concert in Nice. Burnel says he has been in prison many times. The group's treatment of journalists is particularly notorious.

In many ways the group's progress reflected that of punk itself. After a few years of spiralling notoriety, the crunch came in 1980. "We had a big, big change after that year. We got involved in things that we shouldn't have got involved in. I can't tell you what we were doing but it affected everything: our outlook, our physical health, our mentality."

In March of that year Hugh Cornwell, their guitarist and lead singer, was sent to Pentonville prison for a drugs offence, although Burnel insists this was but a small part of their problems, and hints at even darker forces at work on the band's collective psyche. Whatever the reasons, there was a dramatic change in their music and listening to *Greatest Hits 1977-1990*, a chronological selection of 14 of their 30 or so hit singles which is released today, the difference in approach on either side of that 1980 watershed is pronounced.

From the clanking, overdriven bass sound and snarled vocals that propelled "Something Better Change" and "No More Heroes" to the mellifluous, genteel strains of the wait-time "Golden Brown"



Burnel: "Most of punk was a pose. We weren't posing. The others talked about it, but we did it."

destruct had betrayed the movement's nihilistic ideals. After one brilliant album and a farcical American tour, the Sex Pistols effected a copybook demise. The Jam went out in a blaze of glory, the Clash lost their dignity and "died" slowly and painfully.

Others limped on. The Damned became a cartoon show before eventually calling it a day. Siouxsie stuck to her guns, although not one of the original

the chest. "I knew that he had felt uncomfortable for the last few years about various things. Touring... some of the more provocative things that we got involved in, was almost embarrassing about."

Since the early appearances of Elvis Presley on American television when he was shown only from the waist up, there has been a healthy tradition of outrage in rock 'n' roll. Punk's shock troop-

challenge the continuing dominance of acts such as Queen, Fleetwood Mac, the Rolling Stones and Paul McCartney, the very same icons that the punks were pledged to topple. Even Led Zeppelin, dormant for a decade, is back in the charts this week.

It is probably a bit late in the day to declare that a moratorium on the Stranglers is the final nail in the coffin of punk itself, but at a time when John Lydon (né Rotten) now lives in the exclusive Bel Air neighbourhood of Los Angeles and Vivienne Westwood carries off the British Designer of the Year Award, there are certainly no more punk heroes.

Burnel, happily married with two young children, now plays a Wal mid-bass which cost him £2,000 and can sound like anything from a full orchestra to the blaring, distorted racket of his original bass.

"If I saw me as I was ten or 12 years ago coming up the road, I would probably cross over to the other side," he says now, although there is still a disconcerting glint in his eye.

● *Greatest Hits 1977-1990* by the Stranglers is released today on Epic

If I saw me as I was ten or 12 years ago coming up the road, I would probably cross over to the other side

(his biggest hit) and "Always the Sun" one would hardly credit it as being the same group.

Burnel is contemptuous of the charge that the band has mellowed out — "It's all relative. Can you imagine a mellow Saddam Hussein or a mellow Thatcher?" — and it is true that the Stranglers' sinister reputation has remained virtually intact.

Punk's problem was that it set itself goals which guaranteed its own failure. By definition, any punk group which did not self-

Banshees remains in the group that now bears that name. The rest of the crowd gave up, or drifted into obscurity, and until recently the Stranglers, with their line-up unchanged, could fairly claim to be the last authentic gang in town.

Now even they are in limbo as their audition prospective replacements for Cornwell, who departed suddenly last August. The group's management will give no information concerning Cornwell's whereabouts or current activities and Burnel plays this one very close to

ers took that element to its logical conclusion, but unlike the music of the original wave of rockers or of the beat-boomers, or of the hippies, punk rock was essentially a blunt instrument, a regressive force which offered nothing beyond destruction.

1977 was Year Zero for plenty of great groups for whom punk's do-it-yourself ethic provided the will to get started: the Police, the Cure, Simple Minds, U2 and many besides. But not a single punk group now remains to

FINE ART

Red is another colour

Joseph Williams meets Soviet artists, enjoying unprecedented freedom of travel and expression

Not since the Bolshevik revolution has Soviet art been so bold as it is today. Russia's, and then the Soviet Union's early avant-garde was one of the most exciting experimental movements of the 20th century. Then Stalin came to power and crushed it, forcing art to celebrate proletarian virtues. Names such as Kandinsky and Chagall were discredited.

Now there is freedom again. Today's underground artists are still emerging, blinking into the glare of publicity. An exhibition of some of their work has just opened at Cambridge University, where I met the artists, some of whom had never been abroad. What they cherished most was not so much their political freedom, but the opportunity to exhibit their work and develop their skills.

Before perestroika, Vladimir Suliagin's simple, vivid collages were unacceptable and he was constrained to work as an unofficial artist. "I didn't literally have to hide my work, but I could never show it. If an artist tried to exhibit his art, the courts could order his painting to be burnt."

But attacking the Soviet system is not in vogue anymore. Now that Stalin's Socialist Realism is buried, artists want simply to get on with the business of painting. Eduard Gorokhovskii, who has already exhibited widely in Europe, uses a combination of photo-montage and water

colour to create his impressive displays. He believes that some of the hottest work in the Soviet Union was created in the coldest political climate: "We worked with enormous energy as unofficial artists, and we were free from consumer worries."

Not that he laments the demise of conformist art. But market values and financial competition seemed distinctly alien concepts to most painters I spoke to. These artists seemed as naive as children who had kept their paintings hidden under the bed, and even today there is surprisingly little public discussion about their art. A lingering doubt hovers, as if freedom is too good to believe.

"We still meet and talk about art only in our studios, or even in our kitchens," says Lev Evzovich, who, in collaboration with Tatiana Arzamasova and Evgenii Svitskii, has created a vast installation work of ink and pastel on a classic epic theme. Having worked officially in film and book design, they had never belonged to the hard core of dissidents.

In fact, traditional Russian values are more prevalent in this exhibition than political side-swipes. Art for art's sake has never been so crucial to these non-political Soviet painters. Red, in the new So-



Collaborators on an epic theme: Evgenii Svitskii (left), Tatiana Arzamasova and Lev Evzovich

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Signature: Date: 1990

Postcode: E-mail: Fax: Telex: Cable: Other: Signature: Date: 1990

BONHAMS KNIGHTSBRIDGE

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Bank women's victory brings discrimination policy review

By TIM JONES, EMPLOYMENT CORRESPONDENT

SCORES of firms will begin reviewing their sex discrimination policies this week after 12 women whom Barclays Bank forced to retire at 60 won a total of £160,000 compensation and were offered their jobs back.

The decision, signed in the Court of Appeal, will have far-reaching implications for all employers and could benefit at least 10,000 women who wish to continue working until 65.

Bill Gordon, Barclays director of personnel, said that the decision would force employers throughout Britain to re-examine their equal opportunities policies. He said that although the bank had acted on initial legal advice which supported its action, it recognised

that the law was changing rapidly and was happy to welcome the women back.

"We want to remain within the law and end the uncertainty, not only for the women who were awaiting industrial tribunal hearings but also for those in the same category who have been allowed to stay at work pending the outcome of this case," he said.

Iain MacLean, assistant general secretary of the Barclays Group staff union, said that the settlement meant that hundreds of women employed by the company now had the option of working until the age of 65 with all the associated pensions benefits.

"Recent studies show that more and more women are choosing to carry on working past 60 and it is well established that many employers now need them to do just that. For any employer to deny women this right while giving it to men is completely unacceptable."

Alice Leonard, deputy legal adviser to the Equal Opportunities Commission, which supported the women, said: "By law, employers must make sure that their retirement age policies treat women and men equally. When they are changing their policies in line with new laws and phasing in changes, they must ensure equal treatment or risk legal action."

The case began in 1988 when an industrial tribunal ruled that the bank had discriminated against Stella James, one of the 12 women, by making her retire at 60 when male colleagues who joined the company at the same time could work until 65. Barclays appealed against the decision and convinced the Employment Appeals Tribunal to refer the case back to the industrial tribunal.

Last week, however, at the Court of Appeal, the bank accepted the industrial tribunal was correct and agreed to offer Mrs James almost £10,000 and reinstatement. Barclays also agreed to offer generous settlements to the other women.

Mrs James started working for the bank in 1969 when the retirement age was 65 for men and 60 for women. The bank changed its rules in 1973 to introduce retirement at 60 for all staff but did not backdate them to apply to staff who started before that date.

After a European Court decision in 1986, which requires all employers to have equal retirement ages, the bank changed its policy to allow women and men above a certain grade to carry on working up to 65. This excluded Mrs James and the other women because they were on a lower grade than the one specified.

Mrs James said yesterday: "I am delighted and now feel like it has been worth the battle."

Discrimination age, page 21

Thatcher accuses Heseltine

Continued from page 1

consider resigning the Tory whip if he were chosen, but mainstream right-wingers have already made plain that they would co-operate with any chosen leader.

Mrs Thatcher's leadership team continued to voice confidence that she would win conclusively on Tuesday. They dismissed the polls, saying they were asking the wrong question. One said: "You might as well ask people if they wanted Santa Claus as leader."

Norman Lamont, the Treasury chief secretary, said that the polls which showed up to a 10 per cent swing to the Tories if Mr Heseltine were elected leader, were "not worth the paper they were written on". He said: "It is not necessary to change the leadership of the party for us to win the next election."

In her Times interview Mrs Thatcher said of Mr Heseltine: "He says he would reduce the community charge, he would reduce taxation, that sounds just like the Labour party... We would end up with more community charge and more tax. We cannot go that way. We cannot go that way!"

She calls 1987-8 "the two years I lost", the "setback" and "the time I gave in", and clearly blames Nigel Lawson, her former chancellor, for shadowing the deutchmark.

Mr Heseltine's leadership challenge is "a grave diversion that should be defeated as soon as possible", according to a group of senior businessmen, including Lord Hanson, Sir John Cuckney and Lord Fort, in a letter to *The Times* today (page 15). Mrs Thatcher is also supported in another letter by 15 Tory MPs from marginal constituencies.



Family reunion: Simon Jones with his mother, Sally, and his grandparents after being found safe and well in a hostel yesterday

Brooke tries to revive initiative

By EDWARD GORMAN, IRISH AFFAIRS CORRESPONDENT

PETER Brooke, the Northern Ireland secretary, is to meet Charles Haughey, the Irish prime minister, before the end of this month in an attempt to save the government's initiative on Northern Ireland, official sources confirmed yesterday.

The meeting, an exact date for which has yet to be fixed, comes after a series of failures to establish agreement between nationalists and unionists on the timing of Dublin's involvement in a three-tier talks process on the future government of Northern Ireland.

Mr Brooke's initiative, launched in January and stalled since July, is considered to have run out of steam for the time being and the meeting with Mr Haughey is being seen as a last chance to save it from collapse before the Christmas break. News of the meeting came as the Social Demo-

cratic and Labour party debated its own approach to the initiative at its 20th annual conference held in Londonderry over the weekend where delegates resisted what they saw as attempts by the Northern Ireland Office to blame the party for wrecking the process.

The party seemed agreed that it had approached negotiations in a suitably flexible manner and had done its best to accommodate unionist preconditions for talks, but had eventually balked as one was piled on top of another.

During his keynote address John Hume, MP, the party leader, said he believed unionist politicians, like the Provisional IRA, still did not have the confidence to stand on their own and represent their people. "The current political initiative is designed to see if the willingness exists on all sides to make political progress," he

said. "Yet, I must once again ask: where is the willingness on the unionist part?"

During the political affairs debate on Saturday, speakers including Eddie McGrady, MP for South Down, questioned what they indicated was the overcautious approach of the party.

Mr McGrady highlighted the considerable areas in which unionist and nationalist were in agreement and argued that an opportunity existed for a "quantum leap forward" to a new Ireland which should not be lost.

Although he stopped short of calling for an immediate entry into talks under the present arrangements, he said the SDLP must be prepared to take a risk. Seamus Mallon, MP, the deputy leader, had earlier made clear that the SDLP, in his view, is not interested in devolution as en-

aged by the Northern Ireland Office. Instead he sketched out his vision of an administration capable of representing all the people of Northern Ireland which did not owe its existence to delegated powers from Westminster.

Mr Mallon would not be drawn on a precise description of what he intended. It could be a federalist approach or a step towards an independent Ulster. Unionists have always suspected that what he really means is a step towards a united Ireland.

An opinion poll published in Dublin yesterday showed that a majority of voters in the republic believe Mr Haughey should stand down as prime minister. The survey in the *Sunday Independent* shows that 56 per cent of the electorate believe he should resign after his party's failure to win the presidential election.

Lovesick soldier takes tank on joy-ride in the country

By DAVID YOUNG

THE Iraqi soldiers have yet to see as first hand the power of Britain's heavy armour, but if they want a description of its awesome destructive power they only have to ask a policeman of the Hampshire Constabulary.

Constable Ian Joslin was on routine patrol early yesterday near Tidworth when he heard the roar of a powerful diesel engine and watched as a 57-ton Chieftain tank began an eight-mile journey which left a trail of broken lamp-posts, smashed road signs and churned

roadside verges before stopping at Burghley, Wiltshire.

The Army later said that the tank had been on an unauthorised mission, taken by a lovesick soldier who now faces disciplinary charges and a summons from Hampshire police for a series of driving offences, including driving it on a public road without a licence.

PC Joslin said: "This huge Chieftain tank came crashing through the fence with the garrison banger down still on the front of the tank. There was fencing

chewed up underneath it and as it moved it was giving off sparks. It just headed off down the road in a cloud of dust and smoke. I was totally stunned."

He alerted his station at Andover and followed the tank. "The whole time this was happening we didn't know who was in there - it could have been anyone. When it was stopped about four policemen ran on to the back of the tank, took the guy out and arrested him."

Inspector Paul Stallard of Andover police said: "The tank drove for eight or nine miles at about 10

to 15 mph. There was considerable damage done to the barracks. The tank went straight through the hanger doors just like in the movies and didn't stop for anything."

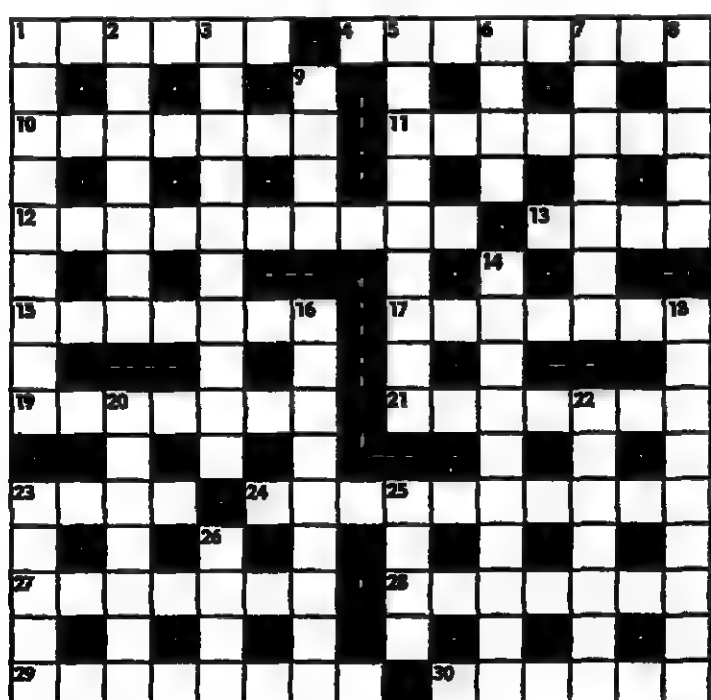
"It narrowly avoided a police car that was just minding its own business. We followed the car and soon were joined by MoD police and Royal Military police as it went along the A338 and crossed into Wiltshire. Eventually a brave fool from Wiltshire Constabulary stopped in front of it and luckily the soldier saw the car, stopped

and was immediately arrested."

The driver of the tank is a soldier at the Royal Hussar's depot at Tidworth. He was taken to Andover police station and given a breath test which proved negative and was later released into army custody. An army source said the young soldier went on the rampage after problems with his girlfriend and army life.

Army investigators are now trying to discover how their security systems failed and allowed the soldier to drive the tank out of its hanger.

THE TIMES CROSSWORD PUZZLE NO 18,455



ACROSS

- 1 Metal decoration - capital is required (6).
- 4 Bill's relations (8).
- 10 Want to carry a revolver, but it's denied (7).
- 11 About to start a game book (7).
- 12 Evil note is slipping into entertainment (10).
- 13 Separate for a bit (4).
- 15 Topping father! (7).
- 17 Discipline is of a good standard (7).
- 19 Former page learning to pry (7).
- 21 Urge to confer freely on a point (7).
- 23 Form a company of actors (4).
- 24 Announcer who's never short of puff! (10).
- 27 Talk about city transport long superseded (7).

DOWN

- 2 Knight with debts unsettled (7).
- 3 Keep fit movement (8).
- 30 Facing a change about the second half of June (6).
- 1 An artist of arresting power (9).
- 2 Orderly and nurse content to bear up (7).
- 3 The reason for a proposal about a single tax (10).
- 5 A panel to contact when in trouble (9).
- 6 None avail themselves of running water (4).
- 7 Managed to turn up before class to report (7).
- 8 Beloved holy man is taking little in (5).
- 9 Scraps the difference (4).
- 14 All for the vigorous and efficient making money (10).
- 16 Memoirs involving noted case (9).
- 18 The upward movement in gold is due to someone with ideas (9).
- 20 The price a writer has to pay (7).
- 22 After holiday, get foreign currency refund (7).
- 23 Many long to find a hideaway (5).
- 25 A man's circulation (4).
- 26 Inside, friend is conducted round flat (4).

Concise Crossword, page 17

WORD-WATCHING

A daily safari through the language jungle. Which of the possible definitions is correct?

By Philip Howard

PURPLE

- a. A storm spinaker
- b. To put and put
- c. To emulsify a border

DYSCEASIA

- a. Lack of condition
- b. Chit chattering
- c. Feet's weakness

KAPLONKEE

- a. A carver
- b. A fax pass
- c. An exclamation mark

EXORDIUM

- a. The beginning of something
- b. The ending of something
- c. An ecclesiastical procession

Answers on page 24

AA ROADWATCH

For the latest AA traffic and roadworks information, 24-hours a day, dial 0836 401 followed by the appropriate code.

London & SE traffic, southwards
C. London (within N & S Circ.) 731
M-ways/roads M4-A1 732
M-ways/roads M1-Dartford T. 733
M-ways/roads Dartford T.-M25 734
M-ways/roads M25-M4 735
M25 London Orbital only 736

National traffic and roadworks

National motorways 737
West Country 738
Wales 739
Midlands 740
East Anglia 741
North-west England 742
North-east England 743
Scotland 744
Northern Ireland 745

AA Roadwatch is charged at 33p per minute (cheap rate) and 44p per minute at all other times.

WEATHER

Much of England and Wales will be dry and bright, although cloud will increase during the day. Western areas will have showers, and rain will spread to many places this evening. Northern Ireland will have sunshine and showers, with more persistent rain after dark. Scotland will have sunshine and showers, with some snow on high ground. Outlook: cold with rain, and then brighter with showers.

ABROAD

Area	Temp	Wind	Cloud	Precip
Algeria	19/28	SE	11	0
Amman	15/25	SE	11	0
Athens	15/25	SE	11	0
Bombay	28/35	SE	11	0
Buenos Aires	15/25	SE	11	0
Cairo	15/25	SE	11	0
Calcutta	28/35	SE	11	0
Colon	28/35	SE	11	0
Hong Kong	28/35	SE	11	0
London	15/25	SE	11	0
Madras	28/35	SE	11	0
Manila	28/35	SE	11	0
Medan	28/35	SE	11	0
Mumbai	28/35	SE	11	0
Nairobi	15/25	SE	11	0
Rangoon	28/35	SE	11	0
Singapore	28/35	SE	11	0
Taipei	28/35	SE	11	0
Tokyo	15/25	SE	11	0
Yokohama	15/25	SE	11	0

AROUND BRITAIN

Area	Temp	Wind	Cloud	Precip
Abertawe	15/25	SE	11	0
Abertawe	15/25	SE	11	0
Abertawe	15/25	SE	11	0
Abertawe	15/25	SE	11	0
Abertawe	15/25	SE	11	0
Abertawe	15/25	SE	11	0
Abertawe	15/25	SE	11	0
Abertawe	15/25	SE	11	0
Abertawe	15/25	SE	11	0
Abertawe	15/25	SE	11	0

TIMES WEATHERCALL

For the latest region by region forecast, 24 hours a day, dial 0836 500 followed by the appropriate code.

Area	Temp	Wind	Cloud	Precip
Greater London	701			
Kent, Surrey, Sussex	702			
Devon & Cornwall	703			
Wiltshire, Gloucestershire, Somerset	704			
Wiltshire, Gloucestershire, Somerset	705			
Wiltshire, Gloucestershire, Somerset	706			
Wiltshire, Gloucestershire, Somerset	707			
Wiltshire, Gloucestershire, Somerset	708			
Wiltshire, Gloucestershire, Somerset	709			
Wiltshire, Gloucestershire, Somerset	710			

Weathercall is charged at 33p per minute (cheap rate) and 44p per minute at all other times.

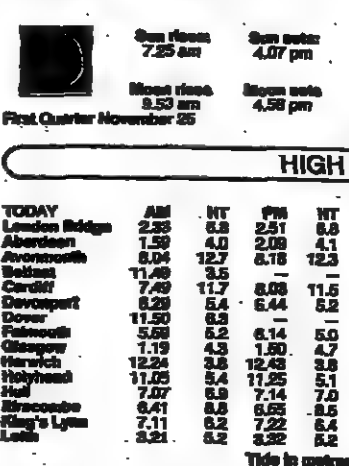
AM



LIGHTING-UP TIME

London 4.07 pm to 7.57 pm
Belfast 4.16 pm to 7.57 pm
Edinburgh 4.38 pm to 7.58 pm
Manchester 4.07 pm to 7.43 pm
Preston 4.38 pm to 7.43 pm

PM



YESTERDAY

Temperatures at midday yesterday: a, cloud; b, rain; c, sun; d, snow.
Belfast 7/45c
Birmingham 12/54c
Bristol 12/54c
Cardiff 11/52c
Edinburgh 8/46c
Glasgow 8/46c
London 12/54c
Manchester 12/54c
Preston 12/54c
Sheffield 12/54c
Wolverhampton 12/54c

TOWER BRIDGE

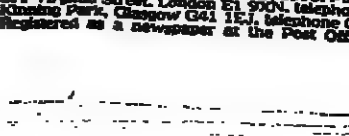
Tower Bridge will be closed at the following times today: 10.20am, 2.30pm and 2.50pm

HIGH TIDES

Area	Temp	Wind	Cloud	Precip
London Bridge	2.25	SE	11	0
London Bridge	2.25	SE	11	0
London Bridge	2.25	SE	11	0
London Bridge	2.25	SE	11	0
London Bridge	2.25	SE	11	0
London Bridge	2.25	SE	11	0
London Bridge	2.25	SE	11	0
London Bridge	2.25	SE	11	0
London Bridge	2.25	SE	11	0
London Bridge	2.25	SE	11	0

Tide in metres: 1m=0.2800ft.

NOON TODAY



Information supplied by Met Office

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Cabra will consider £30m offer for Chelsea

Continued from page 1

Assistant Chief Constable, David Cansdale, said: "The longer this went on the more we lost hope of finding Simon alive. We are almost as excited as the family about finding him. At the moment he was found he was not distressed and seemed to have coped well."

He said that the police have no idea of a motive for the abduction. Simon, who will be five on December 3, was mainly concerned about the whereabouts of his Teenage Mutant Hero Turtles stickers after being found, and what he would be getting for his birthday.

Karen Skinner, his aunt, said: "It was unbelievable after all the heartache, worry and pain to see him again and hear him sitting for his stickers. Words cannot express the joy and delight his whole family feel after this ordeal. It's like coming out of the dark into the sunshine. We have been praying for this moment all along but hardly dared believe we would ever see it. Simon and his mum are now at a secret address. They will be holding each other tight for a long time."

The officer who led the hunt, Det Supt John Higgs, was quoted on October 22 as saying that if Simon had been abducted he would be the first youngster held captive in Britain to be found alive after such a long time.

The boy's father, Stephen, now living in New Zealand after he and Sally divorced three years ago, flew back to Britain at the huge search for his son went on and vowed to remain until his son was found.

Hemel Hempstead was scoured for clues and more than 400 people helped 100 officers search land in a two-mile radius from the spot where Simon disappeared on September 23 in a park a mile from his home.

John Keen, who was warden at the hotel until August said: "I find it nearly impossible to believe that somebody could keep a child there against their will."

● BUSINESS AND FINANCE 27-30
● SPORT 32-38

Cabra will consider £30m offer for Chelsea

CABRA Estates has received a £30 million offer for the freehold of Chelsea football club, a prime 13-acre site in Central London, and will formally consider the bid at a board meeting this week (Colin Campbell writes).

Ken Bates, the chairman of Chelsea football club, who made the offer in association with unnamed property entrepreneurs, says Chelsea football club and the land are likely to be the centre-piece of "a major leisure complex" that could eventually be floated on the International Stock Exchange.

The valuation of the Stamford Bridge site - which has been the subject of various legal disputes in recent years - was written down by £10 million to £30 million in Cabra's 1990 accounts.

Mr Bates said a commitment made to Chelsea supporters that they would be given a chance to be part owners of the football ground lay behind the intention to float on the Stock Exchange.

If listed, the Chelsea club would join Tottenham Hotspur as one of two football clubs to be quoted.

CBI small firms at 10-year low

Business confidence among small firms is at its lowest ebb for a decade, the Confederation of British Industry says. Almost half of the 726 firms with fewer than 200 employees surveyed for the CBI's small firms economic report said order books were significantly below normal.

The report mirrors findings of the CBI's quarterly trends survey, covering big companies, which showed their optimism at a ten-year low.

Index linked issue helps NS

The high inflation rate saved National Savings from a disastrous October. Sales of the 5th issue index linked certificates totalled £180.8 million. The issue provided the biggest net addition to funding with £158.1 million when there was a deficit of £28.1 million.

When interest credited to accounts is added the net addition to funding was £175.2 million. The outflow from fixed interest certificates totalled £183.8 million.

Lilley hints at selling BT stake

A sale of the government's 48.7 per cent stake in British Telecom, now worth £2.5 billion, looks increasingly likely once the restructuring of the United Kingdom telecommunications market is complete.

Peter Lilley, the trade secretary, said he wants the holding to be sold "if the circumstances are right". That could signal an offer to the public of the remaining shares in the autumn of 1991.

Output ahead

Manufacturers in Northern Ireland have 1 per cent more orders in hand than a year ago with output running 3 per cent higher, according to the PA consulting group's quarterly survey of business prospects.

THE POUND

CHANGE ON WEEK

US dollar 1.9665 (-0.0005)
W German mark 2.8908 (-0.0363)
Exchange index 93.8 (-0.6)

STOCK MARKET

FT 30 Share 1614.8 (+32.2)
FT-SE 100 2068.0 (+27.4)
New York Dow Jones 2550.25 (+61.64)
Tokyo Nikkei Ave 23171.63 (+239.83)

TOURIST RATES

	Rate	Bank
Australia \$	2.615	9.455
Austria Sch	2.615	20.10
Belgium Fr	2.363	2.353
Canada \$	1.174	10.12
Denmark Kr	1.174	6.89
Finland Mk	10.16	9.55
France Fr	1.174	1.15
Germany DM	3.180	268.00
Greece Dr	16.78	14.98
Hong Kong \$	3.25	3.15
Ireland P	2.615	2.45
Italy Lira	268.00	268.00
Japan Yen	3.25	11.13
Netherlands Gld	1.174	21.50
Norway Kr	2.615	5.40
Portugal Esc	200.00	178.00
South Africa Rd	16.78	10.59
Spain Ptas	11.23	9.45
Sweden Kr	2.615	5.20
Switzerland Fr	5.00	1.95
Turkey Lira	2.045	20.00
USA \$	2.615	2.615
Yugoslavia Dnr	2.615	2.615

Rates for small denomination bank notes only as supplied by Barclay's Bank PLC. Different rates apply to travellers' cheques.
Retail Price Index: 130.3 (October)

Virgin group to bid for ITV franchise

By MELINDA WITTSTOCK, MEDIA CORRESPONDENT

VIRGIN, the entertainment group, is preparing a bid for a channel three licence in next year's ITV franchise auction with the help of Westinghouse, the American conglomerate.

Richard Branson, the Virgin chairman, said both the Thames and TVS regions were obvious targets, but that Virgin would also consider the LWT, Central and Anglia regions.

A decision on which of the 16 ITV franchises to seek will be made at the last moment, once it is clear "what other people are going to do", Mr Branson said in a television interview with Mary Goldring, the journalist on Channel 4's *Answering Back*.

"We are getting fairly far down the line [preparing the application]", he said. The Independent Television Commission is to advertise the franchises in January with applications due in April.

But Mr Branson ruled out a takeover bid for an existing ITV franchise. "We would want to go into it from day one and start afresh with a new franchise," he said. But the news that Virgin, backed by the financial muscle of Westinghouse, is aggressively

seeking a franchise, is expected to cast a cloud over the shares of likely losers on the stock market today.

The announcement comes only a month after Charles Levinson, managing director of Virgin, said Virgin would want to bid for two southern ITV franchises. Once a team is in place, he has been quoted as saying, it makes sense to use the same expertise to bid for others.

The government is soon to introduce rules governing cross-ownership of ITV companies. Bidders would be prevented from owning two large companies but could own one large and one small. The government is expected to define nine or ten of the franchise areas as "big", making it impossible for Virgin to own both Thames and TVS, for example.

Mr Branson said Virgin is relying on quality programming rather than providing the highest bid to win a franchise. "Quality thresholds will be what will win the day. I think we would not have any interest at all in running a station if we were not proud of the station."

But he said Virgin and Westinghouse, which would be prevented under non-EC

ownership rules in the 1990 Broadcasting Act from owning more than 20 per cent of an ITV franchise, are "prepared for a bidding war as well".

Virgin, planning to bid for two of the three independent national radio franchises as well as radio stations throughout continental Europe, said it would run a TV station "fairly differently" from the way ITV companies are now run.

Mr Branson said: "We would run it much more like a Channel 4, where we would put most of the work out to freelance houses and keep the central staff down to a minimum."

Westinghouse is to fund the application for the franchise. "If it doesn't work out they are willing to suffer the financial consequences," Mr Branson said. "I am not a gambler."

Mr Levinson, previously managing director of Superchannel in which Virgin holds a 45 per cent stake, has said Virgin also plans to expand its interests in television programme production and distribution.

The group, which owns Virgin Communications, its own studios and post-production facilities subsidiary, plans to expand into drama, light entertainment and youth programmes.

It already claims to be the largest seller of musical TV programmes in the world through its Music Box division.

It also co-produces classical music series for the BBC and Channel 4 and has recently concluded a development deal with Rapido, the French television production house.

Virgin, now a private company, is estimated by City analysts to be worth about £1 billion.

Mr Branson, who was rumoured to have been involved in management buy-out talks at *Today* before *The Sunday Correspondent* approached News International with a merger proposal last week, has ruled out any involvement in the deal.

He said: "I don't want to bid for *Today* and it is extremely unlikely that I will ever buy a newspaper. If I were ever to get into the newspaper business, it would be much more likely we would start from scratch."



Waiting for others to jump first: Richard Branson, the chairman of Virgin group

Tokyo loses its attraction for foreign securities firms

From JOE JOSEPH IN TOKYO

ONE foreign stockbroker in Tokyo has already bowed out and others are said to be considering quitting Japan because of shrinking profits and a belief that the Tokyo stock market is not about to fizzle again for a while.

Private figures submitted to Japan's finance ministry show that Barclays de Zoete Wedd, which makes its debut on the Tokyo trading floor today, was one of the few British brokers to stay in the black in the six months to September. It posted pre-tax profits of 90 million yen (£46,000). Barings, which made ¥2.3 billion, did best of the British bunch. Worst hit in the foreign community was County NatWest,

which lost ¥1.37 billion.

Most foreign securities houses have invested too much cash to pull out even though the Tokyo stock market's collapse this year has shrunk trading volumes and commission income.

Foreign brokers, particularly American ones, have also been hit by Japan's waning love affair with Wall Street.

It is true that heads of the merger departments of Salomon Brothers, Merrill Lynch, Shearson Lehman and CS First Boston, all American, have flown. But it is also true that Salomon Brothers continues to prosper. Salomon boosted pre-tax profits by 39 per cent to ¥5.0 billion in the

April-September period, about 60 per cent of the total profits notched up by all the foreign securities firms in Tokyo.

The largest offices here tend to be the most successful," said Ben Grigsby, the head of BZW in Tokyo. BZW, along with Britain's James Capel and Credit Lyonnais of France, only recently won seats on the exchange.

So far only Chemical Bank Corp has thrown in the towel. Its Tokyo offshoot, Chemical Securities (Japan), will put up the shutters at the end of this year. Morgan Grenfell, because it is dropping out of the securities business, is also apparently keen to bow out.

Power selloff details this week

By MARTIN WALLER

THE government will this week announce the price investors will have to pay for shares in the 12 electricity distribution companies in England and Wales, with all the indications pointing to a prospective yield of about 8.4 per cent.

Government advisers were closeted at Kleinwort Benson, the merchant bank handling the float for the government, late last night deciding how many shares will be issued. Today they will consider the probable price, ahead of impact day on Wednesday when it will be announced.

The advisers are likely to come up with three optional prices, probably 235p, 240p and 245p. The government has said 100p of this will be payable in the first instalment.

At 240p, the government is looking to get the issue away yielding between 8.35 per cent and 8.45 per cent, a touch less than some in the City are hoping for. Every 5p movement on the price alters the yield up or down by just short of 0.2 per cent and the advisers are therefore thinking in terms of a potential yield varying from 8.25 per cent to 8.5 per cent.

The decision on which of the three prices to opt for will not be taken until Wednesday. Advisers say they are braced for a fall in the stock market today as institutions try to tempt the price lower; a 60-point fall on the FT-SE 100 index came shortly before impact day for water a year ago, and was promptly corrected the next day.

Among the 12 companies, there will be a variation of about 1 per cent in individual yields to reflect differing characters and prospects. At the bottom of the curve, at little more than 8, are likely to be boards such as Southern, Eastern, East Midlands and London which have demographic trends in their favour and are viewed as least vulnerable to economic slowdown.

At the other end, offering 9 per cent or possibly more, are such as Northern, Manweb, South Wales and South-west.

The government remains confident the issue will be a success at these levels, with various factors having moved the required yield down in recent weeks. Certain institutions, however, feel higher yields are necessary. One clear bear among City analysts is John Wilson at UBS-Phillips & Drew who regards this "the most expensive flotation that's ever happened".

Smurfit takes 13% stake in Walker

By ROSS TIDMAN, INDUSTRIAL CORRESPONDENT

MICHAEL Smurfit, the Irish millionaire, is helping re-finance the debt-laden Brent Walker brewing, betting and property group on terms which would give him a near 13 per cent stake in the group's enlarged equity.

Jefferson Smurfit, his Dublin packaging group, will have the right to appoint a director to the Brent Walker board.

Brent Walker and Jefferson Smurfit have also set up a 50-50 joint venture to develop leisure projects in Ireland. Jefferson Smurfit, which is investing £12 million (£11.1 million in the deal), is already building golf clubs and setting up a third Irish television channel. A Jefferson

Smurfit announcement anticipated "other synergies" with Brent Walker.

Mr Smurfit is investing £10 million of his own cash in Brent Walker's £103.3 million convertible capital bond issue. Jefferson Smurfit has subscribed £15 million. On conversion that would put almost 13 per cent of Brent Walker in Mr Smurfit's hands.

Birdcage Walk, the private vehicle of Mr Walker, the Brent Walker chairman and chief executive, has invested £27 million. That could lift his holding in the company to almost 27 per cent. The bond issue is subject to clawback by shareholders under an open offer which closes tomorrow.

Foseco plans blockbuster defence

By MARTIN BARROW

FOSECO, the speciality chemicals and abrasives concern, is preparing a blockbusting profit forecast as part of its defence against a £236.8 million hostile takeover bid by Burmah Castrol.

Tom Long, chairman of Foseco, and Bob Jordan, chief executive, spent the weekend putting the final touches to the company's defence document, which must be published by Thursday.

Analysts expect the document to be released tomorrow to avoid a clash with the electricity industry's impact day.

It seems likely that Foseco's defence, apart from attacking Burmah's own record in speciality chemicals, will forecast profits for the current year that are comfortably ahead of present market expectations.



Final touches: Tom Long (left) and Bob Jordan who spent the weekend finalising the defence document

Analysts had anticipated a fall from £46.2 million before tax in 1989 to between £25 million, according to Charles Pick of Norman, and £36.6 million, estimated by Martin Glen at Shearson Lehman. However,

recent events indicate that Foseco may be ready to take the City by surprise. The company has already announced that there will be an exceptional credit of £3 million after the successful

defence of patent actions, which began in 1982, in the United States.

The money was set aside in the form of an accrual charging £300,000 a year against trading profits.

Since then Foseco has received an £800,000 order for the immediate delivery of sealants to protect concrete from flash flooding in Saudi Arabia.

Foseco has also completed the sale of technology and assets from its high temperature insulation business to J&J Dyson at an initial profit of almost £1 million.

Burmah, which is offering 275p a share in cash, has already acquired 14.6 per cent of Foseco in the market. On Friday, Foseco shares closed unchanged at 279p. Burmah shares were also unchanged at 440p.

Italy urges push-button VAT

From PETER GUILFORD IN BRUSSELS

EUROPEAN Community finance ministers will walk the tightrope today between British disdain for paperwork and French fears of tax fraud as they try once again to agree a common way of collecting value-added tax after 1992.

At issue is the need for a watertight VAT collection system for cross-border sales, replacing fiscal border checks when these disappear. To quell French fears of goods being spirited away by fraudulent traders claiming them for export, the European Commission is anxious to ensure that all foreign sales tally with those received by the importer. But most solutions on offer involve detailed listing of exports and look very complicated.

Eager to close the issue before its EC presidency ends in December, Italy will present the ministers with a less bureaucratic compromise. Traders would submit a quarterly list of all their EC customers plus VAT numbers and the total value of goods sold to them. Tighter co-operation with overseas authorities, including electronic data exchange, would enable Customs & Excise to test traders' returns and ensure that goods sold matched those received.

But with British business breathing down its neck, the government may not want such a compromise. Last week the Institute of Directors dismissed the idea of obligatory export lists as a heavy burden on business and customs. "It will also be a serious threat to the confidentiality of sensitive commercial information," said Ann Robinson, head of the IOD's policy unit.

Some of Britain's European partners are under similar pressure, although others feel added paperwork may be a small price to pay for a smooth, fraud-free VAT regime.

In a letter to Rino Formica, the Italian finance minister, an influential body of European industrialists recently complained that the VAT plan would contradict the very essence of the single market, giving firms extra costs and overburdening tax inspectors.

Brussels disagrees, saying companies would merely have to press a button four times a year rather than once, as they already file mandatory annual tax returns. Its proposals would sweep away 50 to 60 million documents a year.

Christiane Scrivener, European tax commissioner, is urging the ministers to reach a political agreement today, leaving decisions on timing to follow next year. But this, too, is beset with problems. She

wants the regime to be transitional, running from 1993 to 1997, when VAT would be changed in the country selling the goods, not in the receiver country as happens at present.

Several nations, including Britain, fear this would unleash market forces on cross-border shopping and force VAT rates down, removing their coveted sovereignty over tax. They would rather see the "transitional" period remain open-ended.

Two-thirds of the 300-odd places to the single market jigsaw are now in place, and many will be in operation by the end of 1992 deadline. But tax has proved one of the hardest nuts to crack, and if agreement does not come soon, the deadline for a border-free community will almost certainly be missed.

With our Droplock mortgage, you're laughing when interest rates fall.

And still laughing if they rise again.

If the experts are right, now is a pretty good time to go for a variable rate mortgage. There's a widespread view that interest rates will continue to fall in the future.

But when will rates bottom out? Or start to rise again?

The simple answer is that with John Charcol's new Droplock mortgage, it doesn't really matter.

It starts off as an ordinary variable rate mortgage, which can fall in line with the market. The current rate is 14.5% (15.6% APR).

But when the time is right, you will be offered the opportunity to switch out of the variable rate - and into a rate which will be fixed for the rest of the life of the mortgage.

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John Charcol is a licensed credit broker. Your home is at risk if you do not keep up repayments on a mortgage or other loan secured on it. John Charcol Limited, 195 Knightbridge, London SW7 1RE

PLATINUM

Capitalisation and change on week

ACCOUNT DAYS: Dealings begin today. Dealings end December 7. Contango day December 10. Settlement day December 17.
 *Forward bargains are permitted on two previous business days.

Prices are Friday's middle prices. Change, dividend, yield and P/E ratios are calculated on middle prices. (aa) denotes Alpha Stocks.

STOCK EXCHANGE PRICES

PLATINUM

© Times Newspapers Limited
DAILY DIVIDEND
£2.000

Claims required for +59 points

Claimants should ring 0254-53272

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THE UNIVERSITY OF CHICAGO

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FINANCIAL TRUSTS

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FOODS

27.50	London Port	200	+	18.0	7.0
12.50	London	200	+	18.0	7.0
6,000.00	Union (T)	200	-	1.1	1.1
12.50	London	200	+	18.0	7.0
118.75	Low & Bonar	100	+	11.4	10.0
588.50	MB-Cramer (P)	100	+	11.4	10.0
118.75	Low & Bonar	100	+	11.4	10.0
82.50	ML Hides	100	+	8.0	8.4
118.75	Low & Bonar	100	+	11.4	10.0
20.10	My Holdings	200	-	2.7	2.8
41.50	Macquary	200	+	16.7	11.0
77.50	Macquary	200	+	16.7	11.0
851.25	Manpower (P)	400	-	1.8	1.8
118.75	Low & Bonar	100	+	11.4	10.0
38.50	McLachl. Russell	77	+	7.7	10.0
4,600.00	Manpower (P)	400	-	1.8	1.8
21.50	May Bros	200	+	10.0	10.0
50.00	Marting	100	+	8.4	8.4
4,600.00	Manpower (P)	400	-	1.8	1.8
34.50	Melville	72	-	4.4	5.5
78.50	Melville	72	-	4.4	5.5
27.50	Melville	72	-	4.4	5.5
118.75	Low & Bonar	100	+	11.4	10.0
22.10	McIntosh	200	+	10.0	10.0
2,800.00	Mining & A	10	+	1.0	1.0
1.40	Mining & A	10	+	1.0	1.0
70.00	Mining & A	10	+	1.0	1.0
5.00	Mining & A	10	+	1.0	1.0
2.00	Mining & A	10	+	1.0	1.0

HOTELS, CATERERS

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INSURANCE

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NEWSPAPERS PUBLISHERS

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MOTORS, AIRCRAFT

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OILS, GAS

103.7	Wally Danks	175	+17	80
103.8	Donn Wilson	178	+18	80
104.0	Chris Green	178	+18	80
104.2	Chris Wilson	178	+18	80
2/23/85	A & D D4 (m)	182	+22	82
5/2	W. Green	182	+22	82
104.5	Paul O'Donnell	187	+27	84
104.6	W. Green	187	+27	84
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WATER

701.81	Anglian Water	228	+18	20.4
137.88	Northumbria	261	+18	21.0
127.55	North West	222	+3	21.0
127.55	South West	207.4	+18	20.8
502.65	Serco Water	268	+3	20.8
321.28	South Water	268	+3	20.8
911.25	Thames Water	228	+1	21.4
127.55	Wales Water	268	+11	22.4
321.28	Worcester Water	268	+18	20.8
451.28	Yorkshire Water	242	+18	20.8
	Flintshire Unit	622.55	+252	

● Ex dividend ● Ex all ● Forecast dividend ● Interim payment passed ● Price at suspension ● Dividend and yield exclude a special payment ● Pre-merger figures ● Forecast earnings ● Ex other ● Ex rights ● Ex scrip on share split ● Tax-free -- No significant date

هكذا من الأصل

Consider an imaginary word: Heseltinomics. It is not a simple word like Reaganomics or Thatcherism, words easily scanned, pronounced and, above all, repeated. It sounds clumsy and overcomplicated, a jumble of phonetic contradictions. The chances are that it will never catch on. But just suppose that it does. What might it mean?

A common view of Michael Heseltine is that he would change only the style of today's Conservatism, not its substance. Since Mr Heseltine is fighting for the support of Thatcher loyalists, he naturally does nothing to dispel this impression. But his many recent speeches and books point to a very different conclusion.

In at least three crucial areas of economic management — on personal taxation, industrial policy and monetary control — what Mr Heseltine stands for is more akin to revolution than evolution.

● On personal taxation, Mr Heseltine's aversion to poll tax is well known. But he must know that he can only abolish or seriously modify the poll tax by

Economic consequences of Mr Heseltine

ANATOLE KALETSKY

raising income taxes, albeit perhaps by stealth. One obvious alternative to poll tax would be a local income tax or an income-related community charge amounting to the same thing.

Another solution would be to combine the proposed shift of education spending to the central Exchequer and pay for this by abolishing the mortgage interest tax deduction, another disguised way of raising income taxes. Abolishing mortgage relief would save the government £5.5 billion, exactly half the £11 billion raised at present by poll tax.

Either change would readily be recognised as indirect ways of raising personal income tax and they would overturn the fundamental fiscal axiom of the 1980s, that personal taxes can move only in one direction — down. As a result, it will become impossible to rule out extra public spending on the grounds that there is "no money to pay for it".

● On industry, Mr Heseltine believes passionately that government must support high-technology research projects that are too big or too risky for individual companies to undertake on their own. "No government can avoid making strategic judgements about technologically advanced programmes," he says.

Britain already spends as much as other European countries on government R&D, but this is concentrated in defence. To Thatcherites this might suggest the need to cut defence spending, but Mr Heseltine takes the opposite view. Since Britain's defence industry has turned into a successful exporter with the aid of government support, this "points to the need for more

government commitment to R&D outside the defence world, rather than a reduction in defence expenditure itself".

Mr Heseltine's heretical views on industry go well beyond defence and R&D spending.

All competition, industrial and trade policies, he points out, should also be co-ordinated at a European level to ensure that European companies continue to hold their own against both the Americans and Japanese. There is "one cardinal rule" that politicians must be sure to follow: "stop pretending that this sort of industrial support is a doctrinal intrusion into the workings of the market place. It is an unavoidable part of today's competitive world in which

Britain should be determined to excel".

Some Thatcherites probably believe that Mr Heseltine cannot mean what he says. Presumably he is aware of the well-worn arguments against governments "picking winners" among futuristic technologies. He must know about the repeated failure of uncompetitive "national champions" in such industries as computers, telecommunications and aerospace. But there is no evidence that he is convinced by such *laissez-faire* objections. His books and speeches never refer to Concorde or the British nuclear power programme. For him, the European Fighter Aircraft, the Airbus and the Esprit and JESSI semiconductor development programmes are all paragons of industrial success.

● Finally, there is monetary and exchange-rate policy. This has attracted less attention than the other two areas, but is actually more surprising. In the last year

Mr Heseltine has become a passionate advocate of a politically independent Bank of England. This would manage interest rates and exchange rates with no direct supervision from the government or parliament, like the German Bundesbank.

A British Bundesbank would not only cure our chronic inflationary problems. Just as important, it would finesse the controversy on European Monetary Union: "If national governments have within their own national discretion subjected themselves to precisely the disciplines that are replicated in a European bank, allegations of infringing sovereignty are much diluted."

Does Mr Heseltine realise an independent Bank of England would almost certainly increase interest rates and guarantee defeat for the Tories in the next election? Presumably he does. But as a policy for the next parliament, central bank independence might be just the ticket: timed perfectly to clear up the mess caused by the pre-election boomlet Britain is bound to have next year, whoever wins tomorrow.

WHILE anxiety over the Gulf is keeping investors on tenterhooks, one oil share is finding increasing favour with the market. Ultramar, long regarded as an ugly duckling,

The share price, at 332p, has not been a marvellous performer over the past year. Helped by upgraded forecasts after the group's recent strong third quarter figures, the odds are that Ultramar at current levels could prove cheap on a year's view.

The strength of third quarter profits, which all but rebounded from £15.5 million to £44.6 million, owed much to stock profits of £11.7 million. Even stripped of these, there can be little carping about a replacement cost profits increase of 51.6 per cent.

The fundamental improvement in the margins of downstream operations should continue in Ultramar's final quarter and because the recent higher world oil price had only one month's positive impact on upstream operations, the best of the higher oil price benefit is yet to come.

Nine months' profits at £78.9 million (£76.2 million) are only just ahead, but that is a product of looking at sterling profits rather than the fundamental dollar earnings. Year-end estimates suggest Ultramar will comfortably exceed 1989's net profit of £102.2 million. One possible outcome is for 1990 profits of £116.5 million, though some are expecting as much as £130 million.

The profits range for 1991 is wide, running from £112.5 million up to £170 million, though world events will determine where profits finally land. Followers of oil shares need no reminder that even one week is a long time in the business.

Projected profits growth in 1990 and 1991 put the shares at 332p on a prospective rating of 10.5 and 9.4 respectively. The projected yield remains under 5 per cent, but the more than 35 per cent discount to estimated net asset value looks too big a gap.

One analyst, while conceding Ultramar's defensive merits in markets, suggests it would be wrong to get too euphoric about a single set of quarterly results. Others ex-

Ugly duckling Ultramar starts to look like a swan



Hopeful prospect: John Darby, Ultramar chairman

pect a wider investment recognition will lead to a bounce in the share price to the 420p level, at which point the price earnings ratio would be 13.2.

As John Darby, the chairman, would agree, Ultramar looks interesting.

Insurers
A CRUMB of optimism went a long way among the composite insurers last week. The suggestion that rates are beginning to harden sent shares leaping, with General Accident gaining 20p to 465p on Friday alone. Investors have

been waiting for good news in the industry for so long, they will now jump at anything.

This new found confidence looks bizarre since three of the main companies had just reported aggregate losses of £137 million for the first nine months of the year. The composites have now outperformed the FT all-share index by almost 5 per cent in the last three months.

Some rates are indeed hardening. Royal's decision to increase domestic structure premiums by 10 per cent from the beginning of the month

will doubtless be followed by others. Also, index-linking means many householders will face premium increases of more than 20 per cent in the new year. But suggestions of a recovery have been greatly exaggerated. Commercial property premiums are still softening, in spite of increasing fire claims. There are no signs of a recovery in the vital American market.

Royal's solvency margin, the industry measure of claims-paying ability, has fallen to 35 per cent, the lowest for 16 years. The group insists there will be no rights issue, but as the recent rise shows insurance investors are emotional types. If cash call fears re-emerge, the sector could fall from grace as quickly as it arrived.

Burton Group

SIR Ralph Halpern's departure from the Burton Group cannot change the appalling trading conditions in which the company finds itself but it does clear the path for Burton's recovery. Later, under Sir Ralph's reign, the Burton board had a siege mentality which was increasingly

Foreign insurers could swallow up half the general insurance market in the United Kingdom and a quarter of the life and pensions market by

Split over passport for investment

EC NOTEBOOK

SQUABBLING will resume today over the European Commission's market in investment services, which Britain and other "liberals", such as Germany and the Netherlands, want opened wider to competition than France and Italy.

Brussels is proposing a single "passport" for investment companies seeking foreign clients. But the French and the Italians want to retain the right to issue a special visa for "off-market" trading done outside stock exchange structures. This is to protect investors, they say, but London suspects a Latin conspiracy to protect their stock market monopolies instead. Neither side is likely to back down during a meeting of ministers in Brussels today.

BRITAIN'S insurance industry, widely rated as the most competitive in Europe, could take quite a knocking when the EC's new insurance regime enters fully into force, according to Arthur Anderson, the management consultant.

Foreign insurers could swallow up half the general insurance market in the United Kingdom and a quarter of the life and pensions market by

1995. Banks could also poach up to a fifth of the European life and pensions sector from traditional insurance companies.

Aggressive French companies will see rich pickings in the United Kingdom as well as among their under-insured Italian, Spanish and Portuguese neighbours. Many small life insurers in the United Kingdom could go to the wall, says the study, *Insurance in a Changing Europe, 1990 to 1995*. The study also predicts greater use of direct media and telephone sales as customer awareness grows.

AMBITIOUS moves to encourage cross-border bidding for public contracts, which aim to stop governments choosing domestic companies without giving foreigners a fair chance, are stumbling at the last fence. Britain is not pleased at the way Brussels proposes to look into companies' books to check that they are playing by the rules.

For contracts in telecommunications, transport, water and energy, Brussels wants publically-appointed auditors

to do the inspecting. Many contractors in these four lucrative sectors are private and therefore harder to monitor, it believes.

Britain says the market, not the government, should choose the inspectors.

SOME of the world's biggest private courier companies have said the European Community's over-protected postal monopolies could do with a strong dose of free competition.

In a discussion paper unveiled in Brussels, the European Express Organisation claims the Post, Telephones and Telegraphs (PTT) stranglehold over mail deliveries between member states violates EC rules, making matters worse in an increasingly depressed market. Royal Mail and the Dutch PTT are already more streamlined because of private competition, but others are not.

The courier companies concede that local mail could remain in the hands of national regulators for the present, while EC assistance should be used to ensure an

even spread of mail services in poorer regions. Brussels will unveil a green paper on the matter next year.

EUROPE'S growing number of cross-border commuters are beginning to play havoc with the authorities responsible for deciding where they officially belong. This daily migration has prompted Brussels to prepare a document ironing out the legal ruffles caused by cross-border employment in the Community. The report should be ready by the end of the year.

"People commute as swiftly from Brussels to France, Holland and Germany as they do from Bristol to London," Jean Degimbe, head of the employment directorate and a Belgian, said.

The document could help decide where workers should register, pay tax and receive social security, and travellers could eventually clear Customs more quickly. But M Degimbe admits it would be hard to control the many Belgians and others who live just over the border to avoid high taxes in their home country.

PETER GUILFORD
Brussels

REPORTING THIS WEEK

Mercury likely to speed interim profits at Cable and Wireless

A HEALTHY advance in profits should be reported by Cable and Wireless, the international telecommunications group, benefiting from a strong increase at its Mercury Communications subsidiary.

Lord Young of Giffarth, C&W's chairman, will report his first set of results since taking over from Lord Sharp last month. Mercury will be the star performer, with its contribution expected to jump from £14 million to £40 million. Further news is awaited on the recently announced duopoly review.

Bobby Phillips at County NatWest WoodMac expects interim pre-tax profits, which are due on Wednesday, to rise from £241 million to £300 million. Market forecasts range from £290 million to £320 million.

TODAY

Interim: Alan Paul, Goldsmiths Group, Herland Simon Group, Merchant Retail Group, Personal Assets Trust.
Finals: Diploma, Glasgow Income Trust, Midland Building, Manufacturers' and Distributors' stocks (third quarter — provisional), gross domestic product (output-based) (third quarter — preliminary).

TOMORROW

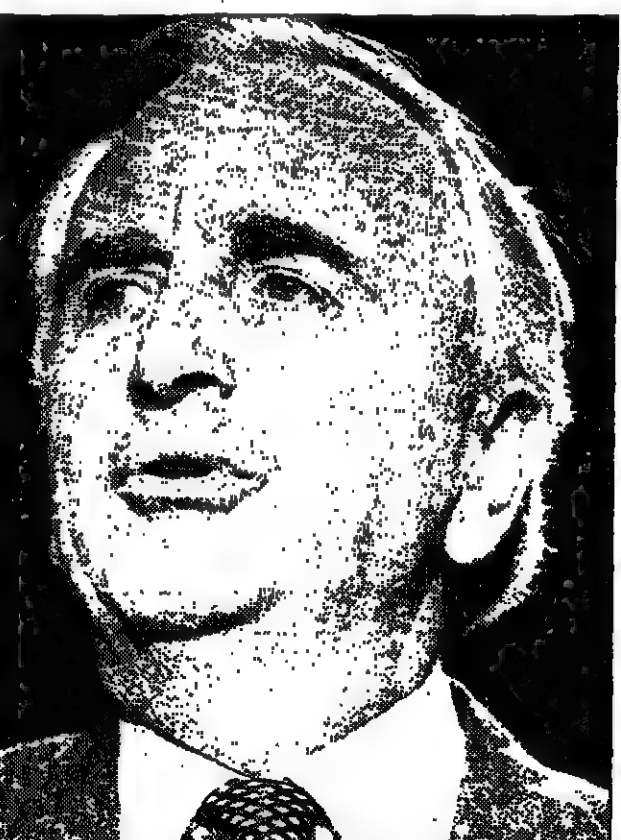
Final pre-tax profits at the ECC Group, the industrial minerals and construction company, are expected to slump from £150.6 million to £96 million, according to UBS Phillips & Drew. Market forecasts range from £80 million to £105 million.

Difficult trading in frozen foods, together with restructuring will hold back profits growth at Hazlewood Foods, the Derby group. Half-year taxable profits are expected to slip from £24.5 million to between £20 million and £24 million.

Despite the slowdown in summer charter traffic, BAA, the civil airports operator, should see a healthy increase in earnings, helped by a strong performance from the scheduled market.

However, there is some concern about slower property sales at Lynton and the decline in traffic growth. BAA may issue a long-term forecast on traffic.

Tim Coombs at County NatWest is looking for interim pre-tax profits of £205 million (£186 million).



Lord Young: half-time profits may top £300 million

the top end of market forecasts which range from £75 million to £85 million.

Ranks Hovis McDougall, the bakeries and foods group, issued a warning in May, after a flat first half, saying that full-year figures would be lower.

Sluggish profits will reflect pressure on margins in an intensely competitive milling and baking market. The hot summer weather will have held back sales of bread and will have also restricted sales at Mr Kipling cakes, which could be down by 10 per cent.

News is awaited on the intentions of Sir James Goldsmith, who recently decided to withdraw from the business world and concentrate on the environment. Sir James has a 27 per cent stake in RHM through his Sunningdale investment vehicle.

Tim Potter at Smith New Court is looking for final pre-tax profits of £165.5 million, against £176.5 million. Market forecasts range from £165 million to £168 million.

Interim pre-tax profits at Whitbread & Co, the brewing-to-restaurants group, are expected to climb from £129

million to £141 million, including £12 million from property, according to Geof Collier at County. This is at the lower end of forecasts which rise to £152 million.

Beer volumes should be ahead.

Interim: BAT Industries, Bogod Group, Brown Shipley Holdings, Cable and Wireless, Courmids, Forward Group, Fulcrum Investment Trust, Golden Hope Plantations, Hogg Robinson, Resat International, Sketchley, Whitbread and Co.

Finals: Radio Clyde, Shari Group, Economic statistics: Construction — new orders (September — provisional).

THURSDAY

British Gas is expected to see interim net income jump from £2 million to £20 million, according to BZW, although the first-half results are of little relevance as the group makes most of its money during the winter months. The dividend should give a better indication of full-year intentions and British Gas is expected to lift the interim from 3.2p to between 3.6p and 3.75p.

Rothmans International, the tobacco and luxury goods group, is expected to announce pre-tax profits of £235 million for the half-year, against £225.9 million, according to Nyren Scott-Malden at BZW.

Rothmans, which is in the process of bidding for the remainder of JP Carroll, the Irish tobacco group where it has a 38.7 per cent stake, will benefit from its interests in the fast-expanding luxury goods market, including its 56 per cent holding in Dunhill and a 47 per cent stake in Cartier.

Interim: Amber Industries Holdings, British Gas, Budge (AP), City of London PR Group, Day Corporation, Portsmouth Water, Rothmans International, Sandvik AB, Scottish Asset Investment Co, Volvo Group.

Finals: Ferry Picturing Group, Govett Atlantic Investment Trust, Morland & Co, Powell Duffryn.

Economic statistics: New earnings survey 1990, part E, balance of payments, current account and overseas trade figures (October).

PHILIP PANGALOS

THE TIMES CITY DIARY

Swiss sorrow at closure

SAD news for the building sector. Swiss Bank Corporation is shutting its specialist building research, sales and market-making activities by the end of this year. The team moved across to SBC with the rest of Savory Millin but actually dates back to 1966 and its predecessor, Millin and Robinson, which took on Bob Erith as specialist building analyst from the industry in that year. From then on, whenever City analysts' awards lists were published, Erith and his team were regularly at the head of them.

The news comes in the team's last bulletin, published over the weekend and fittingly headed *Valete*. "We're trying to do it in as civilised a way as possible," says Erith, who retains his post as chairman of SBC's Equities Group in London but will be devoting more time to corporate banking work. Of his fellow analysts, Adrian Goodall has been promoted to the primary equities team and Richard Hopewell — who is half-Russian — is being posted to Moscow, and Howard Proctor is joining Panmure Gordon. Most of the others have lined up posts elsewhere.

PR prattology

A PARTY of automotive analysts who travelled to France last week as guests of Lucas Industries struck on an amusing way to spend a three-hour coach ride. Their hosts

challenged them to think of collective nouns for four City types — finance directors, fund managers, analysts and public relations advisers. The group, including Bob Bucknell of Smith New Court and John Lawson of Nomura, rose to the occasion with such gems as "a litter of analysts", "a coven of finance directors", and "an indigestion of fund managers". Other popular choices included "an under-performance of fund managers" and — as yet another dig at finance directors — "a lack of financial principles". Worst off were the PR advisers, variously described as "a blither of PR men" and "a reorganisation of PR men". Bernard Carey, head of corporate communications at Lucas, took his revenge the next

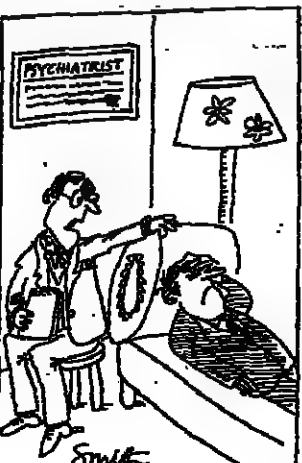
day by forcing the culprits to fill in a long and complex questionnaire about the trip.

Flowering Bush

TREVOR Bush, the SG Warburg director who did much to build up the group's international banking links, has resigned to take up a senior position with NatWest Capital Markets. Bush, a former director of the bank and director of Warburg Securities, is due to take up his post shortly before Christmas. "I was offered an excellent position with a first-class institution," says Bush, aged 44, who began his career at Midland Bank and went on to join Guinness Mahon in 1974. At Warburg, he ran the commercial paper operation and played a key role in developing the international banking division. He joins NatWest as a senior director, dealing with loan syndication and commercial paper.

Health winning

THE decision by Lufthansa not to ban smoking on its domestic flights after all, because German passengers do not like being told what to do, is, it seems, doing little to boost the popularity of its new Berlin route. So many other airlines have now introduced services there that health-conscious travellers have been left with plenty of alternative choices. Apart from regulars such as Air France and British Airways, SAS and Finnair have both launched services, while Lufthansa has tried to go one better by introducing a



"Please hurry up, I've another five Eurotunnel shareholders to see before lunch."

JON ASHWORTH

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Golden Celtic to help Roche earns share of Kinane record

Knights gather treble

By MANDARIN (MICHAEL PHILLIPS)

HENRIETTA Knight, in only her second season with a full licence, currently has the best strike rate among the leading trainers, having won 14 races from 36 runners, a winner-to-runner ratio of 38.9 per cent.

At Bangor today I expect the Lockinge-based handler to improve her already fine record by landing a treble with Flemish Fudge (1.15), Golden Celtic (1.45) and Whitsy Your Problem (2.45).

Flemish Fudge, who is my selection to win the Road Race Handicap Chase, is a half-brother to both Rubisco and Kildimo. Without being remotely in the same class as his illustrious relations, he is still capable of winning a race of this nature as he showed when scoring over today's course and distance early this month.

On that occasion he ran on really strongly to account for Junior Parker, who had already had a run, and I expect him to prove too strong this time for Fride Hill and Green Archer.

Following an impressive chasing debut at Uttoxeter where he beat Hilarion, a

winner twice since, by 15 lengths, Golden Celtic is now named to win the Robert Smith Group Novices' Chase.

Barikin and Sir Noddy, both pretty useful in point-to-point last season, would appear to form the nucleus of his opposition today.

While Sir Noddy has already run well behind Farmlea Boy and Springholm at Hereford this autumn, Barikin will be having his first race for Gordon Richards whose stable, like that of Knight, is centred on a crest.

But still much prefer Golden Celtic, who also had some pretty decent form over hurdles.

Knight entered Whitsy Your Problem for two races at Windsor this afternoon. The fact that she eventually decided to run her brother-in-law Lord Vestey's promising seven-year-old in the Marchwood Novices' Handicap Chase instead speaks for itself.

Last time out, Whitsy Your Problem turned a similar race at Fontwell into a procession, having looked unlikely not to win at Uttoxeter the time before.

At Leicester, the Thorpe Satchville Hurdle has developed into an intriguing contest between Aldrin, Mole Board and Bitter Buck.

Aldrin and Mole Board have both contested the Champion Hurdle in their time, while Bitter Buck was deemed good enough to go to the National Hunt Festival there last March when, to the bitter disappointment of her connections, she ran badly behind Forest Sun in the Waterford Crystal Supreme Novices' Hurdle.

She attracted second favourite for that event on the strength of an enormously impressive win by 15 lengths at Haydock, but after running the useful Riverhead to a dead end on her seasonal debut at Sandown.

Well that I expect Bitter Buck to go today, I still just prefer Aldrin who did well to give weight away all round in the Ekevalco Handicap Hurdle at Newcastle nine days ago.

At Windsor, I will be hoping to see Gearwood's promising recruit from Ireland, win the River Thames Novices' Hurdle on his English debut.

Roche earns share of Kinane record

Knights gather treble

FROM OUR IRISH RACING CORRESPONDENT, DUBLIN

CHRISTY Roche drove Tapanora home a six-length winner of the Sutton Race at Leopardstown yesterday, on the final day of the Irish Flat season, to equal Michael Kinane's record of 113 winners in a season.

Roche's task was simplified when Luca Cumani's Kashkash went lame on the way to the start and had to be withdrawn.

However, Roche's luck ran out in his attempt to beat the record, finishing third and unplaced in the £19,560 Premio.

The £15,000 Berkeley Court Hotel Knockree Stakes, was won by The Cavaleri, who came from behind a wall of horses to get up close home.

The feature of the day, the £100,000 JCB European November Handicap, produced a field of 24 runners but, entering the straight, there was only one in it with Ashy Spirit sprinting clear in the hands of the British rider Dale Gibson, to win by ten lengths from Grasmere.

The winner's owner-trainer Willie Fernin said: "I will give him a rest now and bring him back in February to get him ready for a Champion Hurdle bid."

Apart from Christy Roche recovering the jockey's championship, another major side note to Oliver Murphy who beat off the Arab challenge to set top owner with seven races worth £523,855. His Rinkla Del helped Dermot Weld land the trainer's title with earnings amounting to £845,792.

Robert Collet, trainer of Fortune's Wheel, won the group three Premio Umbria, which he sent to the Aux Coudes, locally-trained Fleming Sword by three-quarters of a length.

David Elsworth's Lugana Beach (Quinn) earned a nose victory with Mick Ryan's Langry Lass (Gary Carter) eleventh.

At Toulouse yesterday, Ségane (Walter Swinburn) finished fourth to the Aux Coudes, the Irish Prix de St. Leger, which was won by the French-trained Morley's mare remains in France and could run in Sunday's Grand Prix de Bordeaux.

At Uttoxeter yesterday, Ségane (Walter Swinburn) finished fourth to the Aux Coudes, the Irish Prix de St. Leger, which was won by the French-trained Morley's mare remains in France and could run in Sunday's Grand Prix de Bordeaux.

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Kribensis out of Champion betting following setback

By MICHAEL SEELY RACING CORRESPONDENT

KRIBENSIS, the reigning champion hurdler, has been taken out of Corral's betting on next March's race after breaking a blood vessel in training.

The flying grey, who was due to make his reappearance in the Fighting Fifth Hurdle at Newcastle on Saturday, pulled up after a gallop, bleeding from the nose.

Michael Stoute, Kribensis's trainer who was yesterday attending the Ailsa enquiry, said that similar problems had occurred in the past but added: "This time it might be more serious."

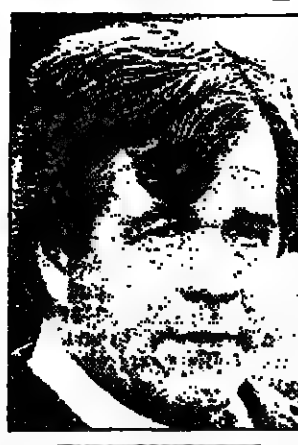
All immediate plans have been abandoned until exhaustive tests have been completed.

Corral's revised Champion Hurdle betting now reads: 5-2 Booka Road, 5-1 Nomadic Way, 10-1 Fridge, 14-1 Deep Sensation, 16-1 Rare Holiday, 20-1 Tyrore Bridge, Fridge, Ladbrokes and William Hill, however still retain Kribensis, as an improver when returning to the second string after their first choice in the market at 3-1 and 4-1 respectively.

The Martin Pipe-trained Tyrore Bridge promises to be an exciting recruit to the winter game. The Ascot Gold Cup runner-up is due to make his first appearance over hurdles at Worcester tomorrow.

Sheikh Mohammed, Europe's leading owner and the proud proprietor of Kribensis, won the 1988 Daily Express Triumph Hurdle with Kribensis and his Highgate Bay also finished second to Italian in 1989. Now the Sheikh may well have another candidate for the four-year-old championship, as Srivijaya's win of a maiden race at Maisons-Laffitte, which trained by Andre Fabre, has recently arrived at David Nicholson's conditions stables.

At the second fence from home the possible drawback to a win for the joint-favourite look to be that he is a deliberate jumper and that his jockey, the 18-year-old Patrick Worrall, is



Stouter blood vessel problem for Kribensis

Dunwoody looks certain to be riding Sam Da Vinci for Nicholson in Saturday's Hennessy Cognac Gold Cup. Mr. Frisk is now likely to carry 12st 11lb in Newbury's £50,000 spectacular, including a 5lb penalty for his win at Ascot last Friday.

"It's a pity he's picked up a penalty and will have to carry so much weight," said Kim Bailey, about last season's Hennessy third and Grand National winner.

The trainer added that Man O'Magic is unlikely to run unless the going eases. Arcus Call, one of last season's top novices and recently the conqueror of Man O'Magic in a two-horse affair on the Berkshire track, is joint favourite at 6-1 with Von Cadek.

Backed from 12-1 to his current odds, the now Hennessy Knight-trained top-class American chaser looks reasonably treated with only 10 stone in the long handicap after his recent wins at Uttoxeter and Worcester.

Unbeaten in five starts during the 1989-90 American jumping season, Von Cadek was clear of his rivals when upsetting his own second fence from home. The possible drawback to a win for the joint-favourite look to be that he is a deliberate jumper and that his jockey, the 18-year-old Patrick Worrall, is

likely to put up 10th overweight. Other betting for the big race is 7-1 Mr. Frisk, 8-1 Sam Da Vinci, 10-1 Man O'Magic, 12-1 Durham Edition, who is unlikely to run.

Other Hennessy news is that Carmel Hill Lad, so deeply impressive when winning at Ayr for Gordon Richards on Saturday, is unlikely to be sent to Newbury. "He needs cut to the ground and is unlikely to get it," said the trainer. "We need three or four days steady rain to improve things. He'll either go for a short race or, better, Cheltenham meeting or wait for the Welsh National." Richards added that Four Trix would only run in the event of better times.

Celtic Shot will also be withdrawn from the Hennessy as it is now likely to run in Wednesday's Edward Hamner Memorial Chase at Haydock. West Point, Rims, and The Party Awake are other likely starters for the Lancashire Festival.

David Nicholson also intends sending Waterloo Boy, a faller last time out behind Sabin Du Loir and Desert Orchid at Devon, for the Standard Life Handicap Chase the same afternoon.

Those iron men of the north, Richards and Arthur Stephenson, continue to dominate affairs in the north, both men having now saddled 47 and 39 winners respectively. And at Ascot on Saturday, we had a rare set-to between the two trainers who have produced a magnificent waiting race on Blazing Walker to overhaul the front-running Full Strength on the run to the final fence.

The winner is trained by Stephenson for Peter Piller from Zurich who has already had 21 successes from his team.

Unfortunately, Miltum In Parvo, 13-8 favourite to give a repeat performance of his Mackeson Gold Cup win, was lame after the second fence from home. The possible drawback to a win for the joint-favourite look to be that he is a deliberate jumper and that his jockey, the 18-year-old Patrick Worrall, is

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Celtic Shot will also be withdrawn from the Hennessy as it is now likely to run in Wednesday's Edward Hamner Memorial Chase at Haydock. West Point, Rims, and The Party Awake are other likely starters for the Lancashire Festival.

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Selections

By Mandarin

1.00 Solo Corner, 1.30 Stranger Still, 2.00 Tartan Trix.

2.30 Remittance Man, 3.00 Aldino, 3.30 Smith's Cracker.

Michael Seely's selections: 1.00 Solo Corner.

Going: good (chase course); soft (hurdles)

1.0 STOUTONOVES HURDLE (Ow 12.300: 2m) (14 runners)

1 ALL GOLD BOY (J. Booth) 5-10-10, 2-10-10, 3-10-10, 4-10-10, 5-10-10, 6-10-10, 7-10-10, 8-10-10, 9-10-10, 10-10-10, 11-10-10, 12-10-10, 13-10-10, 14-10-10, 15-10-10, 16-10-10, 17-10-10, 18-10-10, 19-10-10, 20-10-10, 21-10-10, 22-10-10, 23-10-10, 24-10-10, 25-10-10, 26-10-10, 27-10-10, 28-10-10, 29-10-10, 30-10-10, 31-10-10, 32-10-10, 33-10-10, 34-10-10, 35-10-10, 36-10-10, 37-10-10, 38-10-10, 39-10-10, 40-10-10, 41-10-10, 42-10-10, 43-10-10, 44-10-10, 45-10-10, 46-10-10, 47-10-10, 48-10-10, 49-10-10, 50-10-10, 51-10-10, 52-10-10, 53-10-10, 54-10-10, 55-10-10, 56-10-10, 57-10-10, 58-10-10, 59-10-10, 60-10-10, 61-10-10, 62-10-10, 63-10-10, 64-10-10, 65-10-10, 66-10-10, 67-10-10, 68-10-10, 69-10-10, 70-10-10, 71-10-10, 72-10-10, 73-10-10, 74-10-10, 75-10-10, 76-10-10, 77-10-10, 78-10-10, 79-10-10, 80-10-10, 81-10-10, 82-10-10, 83-10-10, 84-10-10, 85-10-10, 86-10-10, 87-10-10, 88-10-10, 89-10-10, 90-10-10, 91-10-10, 92-10-10, 93-10-10, 94-10-10, 95-10-10, 96-10-10, 97-10-10, 98-10-10, 99-10-10, 100-10-10, 101-10-10, 102-10-10, 103-10-10, 104-10-10, 105-10-10, 106-10-10, 107-10-10, 108-10-10, 109-10-10, 110-10-10, 111-10-10, 112-10-10, 113-10-10, 114-10-10, 115-10-10, 116-10-10, 117-10-10, 118-10-10, 119-10-10, 120-10-10, 121-10-10, 122-10-10, 123-10-10, 124-10-10, 125-10-10, 126-10-10, 127-10-10, 128-10-10, 129-10-10, 130-10-10, 131-10-10, 132-10-10, 133-10-10, 134-10-10, 135-10-10, 136-10-10, 137-10-10, 138-10-10, 139-10-10, 140-10-10, 141-10-10, 142-10-10, 143-10-10, 144-10-10, 145-10-10, 146-10-10, 147-10-10, 148-10-10, 149-10-10, 150-10-10, 151-10-10, 152-10-10, 153-10-10, 154-10-10, 155-10-10, 156-10-10, 157-10-10, 158-10-10, 159-10-10, 160-10-10, 161-10-10, 162-10-10, 163-

Functionalism without flair

By **RUSSELL KEMPSON** corner
sixth

No way out: With Smith (centre) and Thomas (right) barring his way, Le Tissier needs more support than Horne's to keep the ball

by Linpar. Arsenal had at least made inroads in to Liverpool's superior goal aggregate, though unlike two seasons ago, one fancies that will not be a factor this time.

ARSENAL: D Semak; I Dixon (capt); D O'Leary (W); M. Wadsworth; S Bost; A Adams; Groves (sub); K Campbell; P Davis; A Smith; P Ineson; A Linpar.

SCOTTISH FIVE: T Fennell; J Dodd; M Adams; J Case; N Riddick; K Moore; M Le Thealer; E Home; A Shearer (capt); G Cookhill; P Rideout; R Wallace (sub); S Gossomov.

Quiet words draw best from Slaven

Hendrie crossed from the right, Gosney parried Baird's far-post header, and Slaven's almost telepathic instinct for the main chance left him in the right place to strike.

nineteenth, but precipitated rumours that Bryan Robson is poised to succeed Smith at St James's Park. Given the fashion for player-managers, the gossip may have too much substance for Smith's liking.

By RUSSELL KEMPSON

Donnie climbed above Redmond's right yards out to head Harvey's across past Coton in the 77th minute.

LUTON TOWNS: A Chamberlain; M. Johnson; R. Harvey; S. Williams; D. Bealmon; J. Dwyer; I. Estrup (sub: D. Macdonough); D. Press; D. Lewis; C. Hughes (sub: S. Gray); K. Black.

MANCHESTER CITY: A. Coton; I. Wright; S. Forster; A. Hargreaves; S. Rodwell; D. White (sub: M. Armstrong); A. Heath; N. Quinn; G. Magson; M. Ward.

Referee: K. Sturges.

Price 28	Horton 71		
Brazi 57 (pen)	4,980		
FLANNESWEN (1)	1	TRANMERE	(1) 2
Hayes 8	Morresley 14		
4,100	5,000		
KALIFAX (7)	3	WRECKHAM	(1) 2
Norris 2 Graham 48	Preese 25 59		
Jury 84	2,002		
KIRKFOOT (7)	1	PETERBORO	(1) 1
Narbett 43	Riley 16		
4,209			
L ORIENT	3	SOUTHERN	(0) 2
Gastle 66 74	Angell 69 82		
Nugent 70	6,095		
LORON H.	1	CRANW	(1) 4

St Peter 1, St Austley 0; Craydon 1, Dutchess
 Hamlet 3; Heybridge Swifts 1; Dorling 2;
 Hitchin 6, Southwick 1; Met Police 1,
 Tooting and Mitcham 3; Molesey 1,
 Uxbridge 0; Watton and Hercham 2,
 Sonoma Wood 1; Wensley 1, Harlow 3;
 Worthing 0, Chesham 4; Yeading 2, Lewes
 2. *Second division ends:* Eton 2, Ware
 0; Berkhamsted 1, Rainham 0; Billericay 3,
 Edware 1; Clapton 1, Basildon 4;
 Finchley 2, Witham 3; Herford 2, Stratton
 Walden 2; Hornchurch 1, Severnside Boro
 3; Purfleet 1, Hemel Hempstead 3;
 Royston 2, Vauxhall Motors 1; Tibury 2.

Walsley Alfredeston 1, Mueson Borough 2, Barry 4, Dudley 1, Bridgnorth 2, Hrou 2, Gorb 3, Stourbridge 2, Cranham 2, Bliston 0, Hadenstord 3, Kings Lynn 1, Leicesters Utd 3, Bedworth 1; FC Warwick 3, Sutton Coldfield 1, Leichard 2, Hinckley 3; Willenhall 1, Spalding 0, Southern Districts Andover 0, Cranham 0; Baldock 3, Newport IOW 2; Loughamham 1, Hythe 0; Burnham 3, Crowbridge 1; Canterbury City 3, Sudbury 0; Dunstable 2, Hastings 1; Erith and Northfleet 1, Gosport Borough 3; Folke-

Sheff Wed	1	4	1	3	15	1	2	6	17	28
Sheff Sat	17	2	4	2	14	1	2	6	11	28
Sheff Sun	17	1	2	5	8	12	2	3	4	18
Sheff Mon	18	5	2	6	4	15	2	2	4	9

WIS LOAN LEAGUE CUP: Second round: Benar 0; Moseley 3; Brighthelm 1; Gales 0; Busdon 4; Gainsborough 1; Gurnon Ashton 3; Marine 2; Droydsland, Stalybridge 2; Priddy 1; Southport 2; Harrogate 2; Horwich 2; Ryl 2; Mossend 1; South Liverpool 2; Maccles 1.

Premier division: Shipstead 1, Hyde 4.

First division: Altrinch 3, Rossendale 1;

Abington 3; Galesburg 3. Pomeroy 2; Colfax 2;
 North Ferry 7. Danbury 1; Cereset Town 0,
 Harrogate RW 1; Sutton Town 1, Belper 0;
 Thechory 1, Mendry MW 2; Winterton
 Rangers 0, North Sleigh 1.
NORTHERN LEAGUE: First Division
 Alnwick 0, South Bank 4; Corsest 3,
 Brandon 0; Ferryhill Ash 1, Sarnham Road
 Star 1; Gretna 2, Guisborough 1;
 Newcastle Blue Star 1, Northferryton 1;
 Fawcett 1, Tow Law 2; Seaton 1, Whinby
 3; Stockton 1, Blyth Spartans 1;
 Whitcham 3, Denton 1.
BRASS NORTH WEST COUNTIES

Barclays League Second division GM Vauxhall Conference

[illegible]

POOLS CHECK

[illegible]

FORECAST: Unfavorable will be moderate with 11 score draws and four no-score draws. No claims required.

Hearts rattle leaders

[illegible]

2

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of Hammer

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The Draught Bass flavour-wheel - how we make sure every pint's as distinctive as the last.



You can tell it with your eyes closed.

FOOTBALL 36-37
RACING 33
RUGBY UNION 32

SPORT

A glimpse of the white flag

By STUART JONES
FOOTBALL CORRESPONDENT

Everton..... 1
Tottenham Hotspur..... 1

THE heady and extravagant entertainment of yesterday's televised fixture was eventually dulled by a sobering realisation. Although the end of the season lies some six months away, the inconclusive result at Goodison Park has effectively reduced the list of potential champions to two clubs.

Tottenham Hotspur will not yet be prepared publicly to wave the white flag, but such is the pace being set by Arsenal and especially by Liverpool that the draw at Everton dropped them to the edge of contention. They stand 11 points behind the leaders.

If that appears to be less than an unbridgeable gap, consider the chain of events which must occur if Tottenham are to rise to the top. Even if they do build a prolonged sequence of victories, Liverpool must lose at least four games. So far they have not been beaten once.

In any other circumstances, Tottenham's opening challenge would be considered positively encouraging but Terry Venables, as he looked at the increasingly disheartening statistical evidence, admitted to a sense of helplessness.

"There is nothing we can do about it," he said. "It makes Liverpool's controversial goals against us even more frustrating."

The interest in the destiny of the title may have been limited still further but belief in the cultured game, which was savaged during the European championship qualifying tie in Dublin last Wednesday, was fully restored. It was an enthralling afternoon of unrelenting beauty.

Memories of the purposeless tedium of the physical warfare waged by the Republic of Ireland and England were mercifully and instantly replaced by admiration for two fearless sides. Whereas the international had been a mess of muddled and negative thoughts, the clubs were inhibited neither by caution nor by the necessity to lock the game inside a midfield dungeon.

Paul Gascoigne, relieved surely to have avoided the scramble in midweek, revelled in the open freedom and showed his most appealing face. "He was outstanding," Venables said. "He coupled his industry with his skill and



Promote position: Lineker is in no mode for shooting as Attewell glides over him with a facility betraying an almost balletic grace under pressure

got on with the game, whatever happened." Nayim's trickery was as much of a visual treat.

Stuart McCall, who was curiously voted the man of the match, conceded that he would have given the award to the precocious Gascoigne had he been the adjudicator. Tony Cottee, having seen the ability of the youngster at close quarters, went as far as to describe him as "the best midfield player in the country".

Howard Kendall, on his emotional return to his former home, followed the same course as when he took over at Manchester City. Then he used Harper as a sweeper to stabilise his defence. Now he employed Snodin in the position, which was in itself an audacious move.

Snodin had not played for seven months and, although Everton's formation was initially and inevitably unsettled, he was to fill a significant role in the attractive picture. Until he was withdrawn for tactical reasons, he controlled the distribution from the back, which was as measured and as purposeful as their opponents.

Everton took the lead with a silken thread of a move, fashioned by McCall, Sharp, Cottee and finally by Ebbrell. His cross was nodded home by McCall, who thus scored only the second League goal to be conceded by Tottenham this season under White Hart Lane. Thorstvedt was principally responsible for

maintaining the record. He stretched his elongated frame to block one drive from Sharp and to catch another from Sheedy but Tottenham, enriched by more talented individuals, were the more dominant force, albeit marginally.

The only goal to be let in by Southall since the dismissal of Colin Harvey, it prevented Everton from climbing to a respectable thirteenth place. Nevertheless, their rehabilitation under Kendall, who brought on Nevin and Newell to broaden his attacking front, is under way.

Arsenal robots, page 36

Non-League clubs make third round

By WALTER GAMBLE

TWO non-League clubs are certain to go into the third round of the FA Cup with hopes of meeting first or second division opposition after yesterday's second round draw.

Whitley Bay, 6-4 winners of an extraordinary match at Tamworth on Saturday, will relish the prospect of going for a third-round place for the second successive season with a home tie against Barrow. Woking, who replay against Kidderminster Harriers, meet the winners of the Merthyr Tydfil v Sutton United replay. Both matches are on Wednesday.

Leek Town, of the HFS Loans League, who won 2-0 at Scarborough, meet the winners of tomorrow's replay between Chester City and Doncaster Rovers. Colchester play Leyton Orient at Layer Road.

Chorley Borough, of the HFS Loans League, go to either Bradford City or Shrewsbury who replay tomorrow after their surprise 2-1 win over Bury.

The incentive for Telford to beat Stoke in their replay at the Victoria Ground on Wednesday is a possible trip to Burnley. If Hayes, of the Vauxhall League, win their replay against Cardiff at Brentford on the same night, they will travel to Bournemouth.

Atherstone United, of the Beazer Homes League, play Crewe Alexandra at Greyst

MATCH FACTS

At Goodison Park. Alt: 26,716. Ref: K. Hackett.

Full record v Tottenham: W 45, D 32, L 40.

HT: 1-1. EVERTON 1. TOTENHAM 1

Scorers: McCall 15. Howells 36

Assists: None. None

Subs: Nevin 54 (Snodin). Welsh 86 (Lineker)

Newell 78 (McDonald)

Shots (on target/total): 3 6 2 11

Goals (left/right): 4 4 3 6

Crosses (left/right): 7 20 6 30

Free kicks/pens conceded: 15 - 12 -

Cautions/sendings off: 5 5 5 5

Offsides: 5 5 5 5

Possession (gained/lost): 46 109 46 99

Player of the match: McCall

Referee: Hackett

Goalkeepers: Nevin, Welsh

Substitutes: Nevin, Welsh

Unsubstituted: Edwards

Compiled by Julian Dobson

Malcolm lands a timely knockout blow

From ALAN LEE
CRICKET CORRESPONDENT
HOBART

Scoreboard

WORD of Devon Malcolm's hostility preceded him on this Ashes tour but Australians had, until yesterday, begun to suspect they were the victims of an elaborate hoax.

England's fastest and, at least psychologically, most important bowler has looked anything but the heavyweight with the big punch during the last month of sparring. Sometimes insipid, sometimes indolent, Malcolm caused a stir only when attracting the rough edge of Mickie Stewart's tongue for giving something less than his best in front of the England manager at practice.

Four wickets, in the first two first-class games, cost him almost 60 runs apiece. The figures were indicative of a bowler who seemed to have mislaid his aggression and compromised his enthusiasm. The bowler billed as the hit-man of the England attack appeared, to those seeing him for the first time, no more than a figment of a vivid imagination.

Publicly, the England management spoke comfortingly of an inexperienced bowler needing time to adapt to unfamiliar conditions. Privately, with the Test series unforgivingly close, there was growing concern. What the touring side needed most urgently, on a wintry Sunday in Hobart, was a convincing show from their strike bowler. Malcolm, in taking a career-best seven for 74, gave them all this and more besides.

Malcolm earned England a first-innings lead of 148 over a strong Australian XI, much their most encouraging achievement of the tour. But the reform of one problem child only exposed three more persistent miscreants; as, in 45 minutes of wretchedly inept batting, the gains of the day were betrayed.

For the second time in this match, England's top three of Atherton, Larkins and Gower failed to come up with one double-figure score between them. In the first innings, it was nine for three, in the second 19 for three, and the damage is now such that a change to the batting order, promoting Robin Smith to No. 3, is an imperative measure for the first Test in Brisbane, starting on Friday.

Alarming though this was for England, the performance of Malcolm remained the central feature of a day on which 13 wickets fell for only 206 runs. He made good players hurry with his extra pace, swung the ball just enough to disconcert and had sufficient stamina to bowl throughout the morning session before returning for another destructive seven-over spell in mid-afternoon.

In taking the first four wickets to fall, he put the Test aspirations of Tom Moody, Mark Waugh and Darren Lehmann on hold. None of them lasted long and Moody, in particular, looked ill at ease against Malcolm before falling to a ball which left him and hit off stump.

Running in with the wind at his back and the sound of waves breaking on the beach, Malcolm worked up an impressive head of steam

against Lehmann in his eleventh over of the session. "I felt in the groove," he said later, "and I wanted to keep going because it was cool."

David Boon, the one established Test batsman in the Australian side, comfortably top-scored to end a lean run, but not the least striking thing about his innings was that he faced only 22 balls from Malcolm before lunch.

Healy was quickly out to Small on the resumption but Boon and Greg Matthews were staging a minor revival until Malcolm was summoned after yet another incongruous drinks break. Matthews hit his first ball, on the rise, to the cover boundary but cut his second, a long hop, straight to point. His head was hung so low in dismay that he missed Malcolm theatrically pointing him back to the dressing-room.

Boon had lingered almost four hours for 67 when only slightly mistiming a hook and seeing Stewart, at square leg, take a diving catch away to his right. McDermott and Chris Matthews saw the Australians narrowly avoid the follow-on, which Lamb would probably not have enforced anyway, before resuming their torture of the increasingly inept English batting.

Larkins looks more nervous and insecure every time he bats, while Atherton's usual stoicism has deserted him in this game. Gower, who had earlier briefly taken over the captaincy when Lamb left the field, played one delightful shot and one reckless one, as is too often his way.

With Gooch struggling to play in the second Test, never mind the first, England have no viable alternative to go in first. Gower should now drop down to No. 5 and allow Smith to give the top order a semblance of solidity. If England blindly ignore this option, the Brisbane Test could be all but decided by a few overs with the new ball.

Pakistan's dilemma, page 34

All-seat arena planned

BIRMINGHAM City, the city council, and Superstadia, a firm of contractors, have formed a working party to further plans for a sports stadium at St Andrew's, the third division club's home ground. At a cost of up to £35 million, Birmingham hope to have a 35,000 all-seat stadium

with athletics track and other leisure amenities ready for the 1993-4 football season.

Work is due to start early in 1992 and Birmingham are already sounding out Walsall and West Bromwich Albion about temporary ground-sharing arrangements.

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Written quotations available on request.

Becker's silence is deafening

From ANDREW LONGMORE, TENNIS CORRESPONDENT, FRANKFURT

BACK home in Monte Carlo, watching Stefan Edberg and Andre Agassi dispute the final of the ATP championship yesterday, Boris Becker should be comforted by one thought. In paying \$1,000 as a fine for refusing to attend the press conference after his stunning defeat by Agassi in the semi-finals, he picked up the bargain of the week. A fraction of his \$150,000 prize-money for not having to face the discordant music of the press? No wonder he snapped it up.

Yet Becker's absence was still a surprise. He has always been as willing to explain his defeats as he has been to accept his victories and he has generally done both with generosity and humility. This time, for once, he was not up to the challenge and it says much for his state of mind that he left in silence, a deafening silence compared to the banging of drums which had greeted his delayed arrival just a few days earlier.

Becker now has time to regroup before setting off for Australia at Christmas. Shorn of two grand slam titles, relieved of the burden of being world champion, his only tag at the end of a frustrating year

is world No. 2. That will not please him, but at least he will not be saddled so heavily by the burdens of expectation.

At one point over the weekend, Becker's defeat was being televised on one channel, Steffi Graf's - by Gabriela Sabatini in the semi-final of the Virginia Slims championship - on another. Nobody jumped into the River Main.

Whatever the outcome of the final, the mantle of champion has now passed from Becker to Edberg, who is already assured of being No. 1 for the year. Edberg's recent consistency has fooled even as acute an observer as Ivan Lendl. Beaten by Edberg as quickly and as comprehensively as Becker was by Agassi, Lendl said that the Swede was still fragile.

"He gets tired and when you are tired, you are more prone to injuries. There are bodies that need to train a lot to be in condition like mine, bodies that don't need to train at all, like Wilander's, and bodies that have to train to get into shape but cannot go more than two sets, like Stefan's, but they have the advantage of quickness," Lendl said.

That may have been true at the start of the year, when

Edberg had to pull out of the final of the Australian Open with a pulled side muscle, but he has worked hard all year on his speed and fitness and the work is paying off here. Edberg is clearly tired after playing 23 matches in 45 days, clearly playing by instinct. It is just that his instinct is rather better than anyone else's.

He approaches the net with the speed and the stealth of a cat, kills with devastating precision. Even his groundstrokes, not generally Edberg's strength, are more consistent. And Agassi? He defies logical analysis. Before the French, he had minimal match practice on clay and reached the final. Before this week, he had played three competitive matches in two months. Yet he has again reached the final.

He served only fractionally slower than Becker in the semi-final and outscored Becker eight aces to three. After winning their first match two years ago in Indian Wells, Becker had asked Agassi not to get any better. As usual, the American clearly did not listen.

RESULTS: Semi-finals: Agassi (USA) bt E. Lendl (SWE) 6-2, 6-4, 6-2. Final: E. Lendl (SWE) bt A. Agassi (USA) 6-2, 6-4, 6-2.

Chips off the old block

TO SAY that the Westons of Durham are a cricketing family, is like suggesting that Pavlov rings a bell. Philip, aged 17, a fast left-hand bowler and left-hand bat has recently been selected to tour New Zealand in January and February with England's under-19 Young Cricketers and his brother, Robin, an opening batsman and leg-spinner, has just been named the Jack Hobbs Under-16 Cricketer of the Year.

When their father, Mike Weston, was at Durham School in the Fifties he was universally regarded as a better cricketer than rugby player and he established a number of records, which his sons have since broken; yet he represented England and the British Isles at stand-off or centre, while the summit of his crickering achievements was a number of appearances for Durham County.

He was an excellent cricketer, however, and, like Robin, an opening batsman and wrist-spinner, to whom virtually all sports came easily, as his single figure golf handicap suggests. The demands of rugby, especially touring, meant that Mike Weston played no cricket from the age of 20 to 30.

MICHAEL STEVENSON on a sporting family with a special talent for cricket

He enjoyed an Indian summer in his thirties and forties and at 52 still plays occasionally, but predictably his greatest pleasure comes from the spectacular successes of his sons.

Philip, 6ft 4in but only 13st, is possessed of the burning dedication to succeed that has prompted him, as a contracted professional with Worcestershire, to give up rugby at school for fear of injury. He has represented England at every level possible and usually a year or more early.

It was an MCC match at Lord's, in which he could not bowl, that was the immediate cause of his signing for Worcestershire. He was allowed to open, got 94 watched by the County coach, Basil D'Oliveira and was signed as a batsman.

But he and Robin have been greatly influenced by the Australian coach at Durham school, Mike Hirsch. He has toughened them up physically as well as mentally.

Marginally square on at

delivery, Philip Weston possesses real pace and swings the ball appreciably. Intelligent and utterly single-minded, Philip, who hopes to go to Oxford, is a wonderful prospect as an all-rounder.

So is his talented younger brother Robin, who scored his first century for Durham school's first XI at 13. Essentially a back-foot player, he has earned the reputation of being something of a run machine.

Both the Westons have been and are fortunate young cricketers. They have been expertly coached at Lord's since 1982.

But above all they are lucky to have inherited outstanding sporting talent. They have had everything a young cricketer would wish for. Now it is up to them, but five counties want to sign the 15-year-old Robin and it would be a rash punter who would gamble much against their success.

Like his father, Mike, who has been a Durham committee member for 16 years, Robin is anticipating the outcome of the TCCB meeting on December 9 which will decide the fate of Durham as a first-class county.

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